

Royal couple visit youngest victim as Brittan steps up security

Newman puts 700 more police on bomb watch

More police are to be deployed on anti-terrorist duties in central London, in the wake of the Harrods bombing...

Police believe the IRA may have reserved a space for the car bomb by parking another car there earlier...

By Julian Haviland, Political Editor

Police vehicles patrolling 24 hours a day to respond specifically to bomb threats anywhere in Metropolitan London...

The Prime Minister's husband, Mr Denis Thatcher, went Christmas shopping at Harrods yesterday...

Mr Brittan told an impressive united Commons that Sir Kenneth's measures for the public's greater protection would include 64 more dog handlers...

detention of suspected terrorists, saying that there had been more murders when there was detention, and against introducing identity cards...

Mr Brittan in his statement to the Commons said that public vigilance was essential to give full effect to the increased security measures...



Youngest victim: The Princess of Wales at St Thomas's Hospital yesterday, chatting to Rajan Parmar, aged five, whose leg was injured in the Harrods bomb attack.

I apologize on behalf of London, says prince

By Alan Hamilton

The Prince and Princess of Wales yesterday went to two London hospitals to visit victims of Saturday's Knightsbridge bomb attack...

Like Mr Brittan, Mr Kaufman appeared to speak for everyone in the Chamber. Few political points were made...

At Westminster Hospital the royal couple met Mr Mark McDonald, an American geologist who was one of the most seriously injured civilians...

At St Thomas's Hospital Sergeant Metham was too ill to see the royal couple, but they met PC Holgate, recovering from his third bomb incident...

Some bomb victims would be "totally maimed for life", a consultant orthopaedic surgeon at the Westminster Hospital...

Arafat prepares for dawn evacuation

From Robert Fisk, Tripoli, northern Lebanon

Mr Vassir Arafat's 4,000 guerrillas under siege in the northern Lebanese city of Tripoli prepared for a dawn evacuation today...

Despite thelachrymose predictions of Mr Arafat that the Israeli Navy would block his men's evacuation...

Earlier, Mr Arafat had feared that the latest Israeli naval bombardment of Tripoli - the sixth in 10 days - had prompted the Greek Government to seek further guarantees for the safety of their five evacuation ships...

Nakasone will have narrow majority

By Our Foreign Staff

Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone, the Japanese Prime Minister, looked certain last night to have a narrow working majority after the sharp rebuff to his Liberal Democratic Party in Sunday's general election...

It was clear that Mr Nakasone would take enough independents into his party to assure LDP control of the premiership...

But the most striking progress was made by the Komeito (Clean Party), with 58 seats against a previous total of 34...

THE TIMES Tomorrow

House... Full details of the rate-capping Bill... sturgeon... What to do with caviare by The Times cook...



Judge jails child sex man

Judge Brian Gibbens sentenced a man who had intercourse with a friend's daughter, aged seven, to two years' imprisonment...

Challenge over cancelled rig

British Shipbuilders' Scott Lithgow yard will challenge yesterday's cancellation by a British-led consortium of an £60m oil rig...

Europe's cash

The EEC's £15.5bn budget, approved by the Parliament last week, will be adopted today as the Council of Ministers lodges a last-minute protest...

Pay-cut theory

A reduction of 10 per cent in teenagers' average wages could create an extra 70,000 to 100,000 jobs for young people, a research paper says...

Eagle-eyed

Washington is preparing a review of Soviet violations of arms control agreements to be presented to Congress early in the new year...

Jobless 'decline'

Unemployment no longer seems to be rising and may even be falling, Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, told the Commons Treasury and Civil Service Select Committee...

Habsburg theory

Crown Prince Rudolf, believed to have committed suicide with his lover at Mayerling, Austria, in 1889, was murdered according to Habsburg family papers...

Transplant fear

The condition of Mr Lars Ljungberg, aged 32, Britain's first heart-lung transplant patient, was causing 'grave concern', doctors at Harefield Hospital, Middlesex, said...

Spy chief quits

Mr John Ryan, Australia's espionage chief, has resigned after a bungled training exercise when agents wearing carnival masks ran amuck in a Melbourne hotel...

Leader page, 11

Letters: On housing, from Mr R Kahn, and Miss M S Cleaver; EEC Budget, from Mr A Ross, and Mr C Vajda; divorce and children, from Dr M Lund...

Table with 3 columns: Home News, Law Report, Parliament, Overseas, Arts, Business, Church, Court, Crossword, Diary

Two cars theory in hunt for Harrods killers

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Reporter

The Provisional IRA unit which killed five people at Harrods may have reserved a space for their car bomb by parking another vehicle in the row of parking bays alongside the store hours before the explosion...

Mr Hucksley said the first car would have been driven into Hans Crescent some time on Saturday morning and parked at a meter. Just after midday the Austin 1300 GT arrived and took its place...

The Yard hopes members of the public in the crescent may have seen the exchange. It is also possible that details of parked cars could have been kept by traffic wardens or police...



At the weekend senior staff at the Yard began drawing up plans for the extra patrols announced by the Home Secretary yesterday...

In past years the Yard has responded to IRA campaigns by making the police presence on the streets of central London very visible...

Marks & Spencer breaks with family tradition

By Derek Harris, Commercial Editor

Lord Sieff of Brimpton is stepping down as chairman of Marks & Spencer in July, making way for Lord Rayner, the man Mrs Thatcher called in to improve efficiency in Whitehall...

Mr Michael Marks who, with Mr Thomas Spencer, founded the business in Leeds in 1884. Born Marcus Sieff, the son of the late Lord Sieff (formerly Israel Sieff)...



Lord Sieff (left) and his successor, Lord Rayner, businessman of the year, and was presented with the International Retailer of the Year Award in New York earlier this year.

New 70, he is in good health and shows no signs of reducing the pace that has made Marks & Spencer the most successful retailer in Britain...

Princess Caroline to marry

From Diana Geddes, Paris

Princess Caroline of Monaco, aged 26, is to marry Signor Stefano Casiraghi, 23-year-old son of an Italian businessman...

The couple, who have known one another for three years, but only closely for the past six months, had both wanted a church wedding...

Advertisement for Famous Grouse Scotch Whisky featuring a grouse and glasses of whisky.

Pay cuts would create jobs for young people, report says

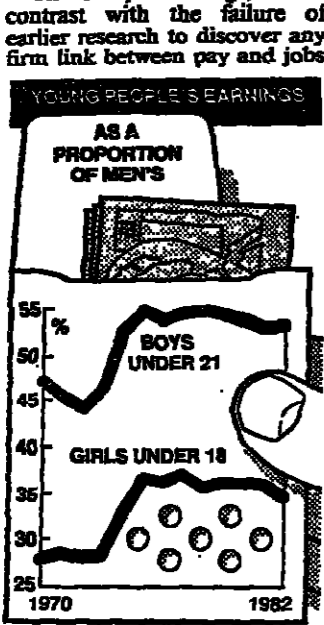
By Frances Williams

Cuts in young people's wages relative to adults would substantially improve their job opportunities, according to an official research paper from the Employment Department, published yesterday.

It suggests that for every 1 per cent cut in the relative wages of young people employment would rise by 2 per cent for boys and 1.5 to 2 per cent for girls. A pay reduction of 10 per cent - equivalent to about £5 a week on present average earnings of about £50 for workers under 18 - could thus create between 70,000 and 100,000 extra jobs.

Only one fifth of these additional jobs would be new, however. The remainder people would directly replace adult workers.

The study's findings, which contrast with the failure of earlier research to discover any firm link between pay and jobs



for young people, support ministers' claims that low wages would enable young people "to price themselves into work".

But they do not support the view that excessive wages are to blame for the steep rise in unemployment rates among teenagers since 1979. Their relative earnings have fallen slightly since the mid-1970s, the study says. But employment prospects have suffered disproportionately from the impact of recession.

For every one per cent fall in overall employment the number of jobs available for young people drops by about 1.2 per cent, the department estimates and by more if special measures to relieve youth unemployment are discontinued.

Officials said yesterday that earlier studies had failed to uncover the connection between pay and jobs because they concentrated on the 1950s and 1960s when demand for labour was high and the relative wages of young people were low, although gradually rising. But from 1959 there was a sharp break in the pattern.

Between 1969 and 1977 boys' earnings as a proportion of men's jumped from 47 to 55 per cent while for girls the proportion rose from below 25 to 37 per cent. Unemployment rates among young people relative to adults soared from about average to more than three times the average.

Since 1977 the relative jobless rate has fallen to about twice the average.

The relative pay and employment of young people (William Wells, Department of Employment Research Paper No 42).

£250m snag to sale of ordnance plants

By Rodney Cowton, Defence Correspondent

The Government yesterday announced plans to reorganize the Royal Ordnance Factories, for which it may have to find £250m within the next year.

A Bill in the Commons yesterday will bring the 11 government-owned factories into a new organization under the Companies Act, thus paving the way for their privatization.

The policy is being resisted by the unions, and the trades unions yesterday announced plans to hold a one-day strike in January.

If the Bill is approved by Parliament, it is intended that the factories will be brought under their new status from October 1 next year. Employees would then cease to be civil servants, and among the pro-

Bridge road 17 years old

The Severn bridge still retains its original 1966 road surface, and this is because of the immense difficulties of repair, a Labour MP said in the Commons last night.

Mr Roy Hughes, MP for Newport, East, said that road engineers had told him that resurfacing the bridge would be one of the hardest jobs they could be given. But he added the warning: "This will have to be tackled one day."

A Christmas cracker in El Salvador.

While you're merrily pulling crackers at Christmas, El Salvador, Nicaragua and Guatemala are being pulled apart by civil wars. Civil wars so brutal that they've already left 4 million people homeless and destitute. And orphaned countless thousands of children. The luckiest ones have escaped to Mexico and Honduras.

Only to find conditions in the shanty towns and refugee camps wretched beyond belief. They have survived a murderous civil war but without your help they may not survive Christmas or the New Year.

Their situation is desperate. We are doing all we can.

Please send a donation. Now. No matter how little you can afford.

Even the price of a Christmas cracker will help them.

OXFAM

Please send your donation to: Guy Stringer, Oxfam, Room TM28, Freepost, Oxford OX2 2BR.

Police life goes on at Chelsea station

By Alan Hamilton

On the roof of Chelsea police station, as on police stations all over London, the Union Jack flew at half mast yesterday in memory of the two officers killed by the Knightsbridge bomb.

Rarely, if ever, have the perils of the job struck so hard as at a single station with two dead and thirteen injured, three of them critically.

As Monday morning's shift reported for work they found many officers who had been on duty almost continuously since Saturday afternoon. A sense of unmet shock still prevailed over all.

"You feel a sense of loss when any officer is killed, but when it is your own station it is the loss of friends", Chief Insp Peter Francis, who had been on duty for 36 of the past 48 hours, said.

"This is a big station with 200 officers, but we have a small manor, which makes us all very close. Men have been appearing from their days off and their holidays; it is almost impossible to get them to go home."

"One of the advantages of a major incident like this is that there is too much to do to sit around and dwell on it. But our civilian staff in particular are quite distraught at the tragedy."

But the overriding feeling is one of determination. "We are carrying on as best we can", said one senior officer. "We cannot let the IRA succeed."

Superintendent Michael Hames, the station's deputy chief officer, shouldered the grim task on Saturday of visiting the families of the dead to break the news to them. The three critically injured officers are allowed only their families by their besides, but the station is constantly in touch with the hospitals on their progress.

Throughout the weekend the station has been inundated with telephone and personal calls from the public offering sympathy and cash donations for the bereaved families.

Among yesterday's callers was Mr Alec Craddock, managing director of Harrods.

Of the two who died, Sergeant Noel Lane, aged 28, had moved from Streatham to Chelsea only two months ago on his promotion. WPC Jane Arbuthnot, aged 22, had been at Chelsea throughout her two-and-a-half-year career in the police.

Mr Kenneth Hawkfield from Sussex, who has had an account

at Harrods for more than 30 years, said he had no second thoughts about coming so soon after Saturday's bomb. "I do not think lightning strikes twice in the same place, but anyway I am not going to have my shopping upset like that", he said.

About 15 per cent of the store was closed but goods from those departments were available elsewhere. In the furniture department on the third floor there was a hum of vacuum cleaners and the occasional gritty click as a shard of glass was sucked up.

Outside glaziers were tapping at window frames and workmen were shovelling broken glass into a skip.

They included the Prime Minister's husband, Mr Denis Thatcher, who said: "No damned Irish murderer is going to stop me going there". He returned to Downing Street carrying two of the store's distinctive green bags packed with presents.

Mr Kenneth Hawkfield from Sussex, who has had an account

Compromise agreed on electricity cost

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

Mr Peter Walker, Secretary of State for Energy, confirmed in the Commons yesterday that the Electricity Council was looking at the possibility of a 2 per cent increase in domestic electricity prices next year and that an increase for industrial users was unlikely.

Four days after the Cabinet discussion on electricity prices, about which there were conflicting accounts, the shape of the compromise which it reached appeared to be agreed by all sides yesterday.

As reported in *The Times* on Friday, it was that instead of 3 per cent rise for domestic and industrial electricity, which the Treasury wanted, the Electricity Council should be asked to increase domestic prices by 2 per cent.

Mr Walker met Mr Philip Jones, the council's chairman, yesterday to inform him of what he later called in the Commons the Cabinet's suggestion. Mr Jones undertook to discuss it with his 14 area chairmen and to report back to Mr Walker next month.

But Mr Walker made it clear to MPs that if Mr Jones said that the council did not want to put up prices, the Government did not plan legislation to compel it to do so.

If that happened it is clear that the only way Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor could get his way would be by increasing the sum it requires from the industry in loan repayments.

In the Commons, Labour MPs exploited the Cabinet division over the issue. Mr Stanley Orme, from the opposition front bench, said that Mr Walker should resign. But Mr Walker won backing from Mr David Rowell, a former energy minister whom Mrs Thatcher dropped from the Cabinet after the election.

Parliamentary report, page 4

Genetic engineering: 2

Early diagnosis of hereditary defects

Since last year, two British teams have been using genetic engineering to detect serious hereditary defects in fetuses just eight weeks old.

Their work depends on identifying and copying a piece of DNA (genetic material) that corresponds to a particular faulty gene. This DNA is called a probe because it is used in the laboratory analysis of fetal cells to pick out just that one gene from millions of others.

Dr Bernadette Modell, of the department of obstetrics at University College Hospital, London, is working with Professor David Weatherall, of Oxford University, to diagnose thalassaemia, a serious blood disorder found among people of Mediterranean origin. They have carried out about 25 diagnoses, some as early as six weeks, allowing the mother to have a simple early abortion if her fetus has inherited the single faulty gene responsible for the disease.

The second group includes Mr Charles Rodeck, an obstetric surgeon at King's College Hospital Medical School, London, and Dr John Gosden and Dr Christine Gosden, a husband and wife team from the Medical Research Council's clinical and population cytogenetics unit, Edinburgh. They are not looking for a single defective gene but are detecting male fetuses by a sequence of DNA found only on the Y sex

In the second article of his series on genetic engineering, CLIVE COOKSON describes how medical researchers can diagnose inherited disease by identifying the faulty genes responsible.

Chromosome (girls have two X chromosomes and boys one X and one Y).

Their patients are women whose family history shows that they are carrying a sex-linked genetic defect on an X chromosome. Boys stand a 50 per cent chance of inheriting the faulty X chromosome and therefore of developing the disease, but girls are not affected because their second X chromosome can compensate for any fault in the first. Duchenne muscular dystrophy is the most common such disease.

The technique is about twice as fast as the conventional method of foetal sexing, in which foetal cells are cultured and the whole Y chromosome detected by microscope. The mother is therefore offered an abortion at the earliest possible moment if she is carrying a male fetus.

The tissue for such early genetic analysis comes from chorionic villi - tiny fibres that connect the fetus to the uterus in early pregnancy. A single one of the 10,000 or so villi can be detached, using high resolution ultrasound guidance, and removed through the cervix and

vagina without discomfort to the patient.

The researchers believe that the process does not harm the fetus (after it is properly implanted in the womb most villi wither away). Although there have been a few miscarriages afterwards, these might have occurred anyway, since spontaneous abortions are common in early pregnancy.

But Professor Weatherall emphasizes that the safety is still not proven. "We want a five-year psychiatric and paediatric follow-up on these babies", he said. "Our own plan with Dr Bernadette Modell is to do 50 to 100 cases and then sit back and evaluate how good we are."

The world's medical geneticists hope that the procedure does turn out to be safe, because the alternative source of foetal DNA is from amniocentesis in the middle of pregnancy. If an abortion turns out to be necessary, doing it so late is obviously far more traumatic for the parents and may be unacceptable ethically.

Until this year some blood disorders were the only serious hereditary diseases whose precise genetic origin was known



Harrods back in business

By Richard Dowden

Harrods opened on the stroke of nine yesterday morning but despite a brave face from the staff it was not quite business as usual.

The store was not deserted, but for a Monday morning before Christmas it was very, very quiet. Customers who came did so almost out of defiance.

They included the Prime Minister's husband, Mr Denis Thatcher, who said: "No damned Irish murderer is going to stop me going there". He returned to Downing Street carrying two of the store's distinctive green bags packed with presents.

Mr Kenneth Hawkfield from Sussex, who has had an account

at Harrods for more than 30 years, said he had no second thoughts about coming so soon after Saturday's bomb. "I do not think lightning strikes twice in the same place, but anyway I am not going to have my shopping upset like that", he said.

About 15 per cent of the store was closed but goods from those departments were available elsewhere. In the furniture department on the third floor there was a hum of vacuum cleaners and the occasional gritty click as a shard of glass was sucked up.

Outside glaziers were tapping at window frames and workmen were shovelling broken glass into a skip.

Mr Alec Craddock, Harrods' managing director, said the bomb had cost the store more than £1m in damage and more in lost custom. But he added: "I am sure that customers will continue to come to Harrods. British people are like that. The store will be as normal as we can make it. We are going to make Harrods as Christmassy as possible."

Oxford Street, which was sealed off after a bomb scare on Saturday, was also relatively quiet. Police were patrolling in pairs every 20 yards. Security guards at some stores were searching handbags. Managers would not comment on the prospects for trade, but staff admitted they had never seen it so quiet.

NGA can have cash to pay benefits

Commissioners holding National Graphical Association (NGA) funds seized for the union's contempt of court in the *Stockport Messenger* dispute are to be given permission to release enough money to allow the union to pay sickness and hardship benefits.

Mr Justice Eastham, the High Court judge who ordered the sequestration of the NGA's assets of an estimated £10m, said yesterday, however, that the commissioners had "quite rightly" required money the union had exported to Dublin to be reimported to England.

He was speaking in the High Court in Manchester, where the NGA's counsel, Mr Terence Rigby, yesterday applied for an application, asking for the terms of the writ of sequestration to be relaxed, to be adjourned.

Mr Rigby told the court the application for an adjournment to allow discussions to take place between the union and the commissioners was made with the consent of the commissioners. Discussions would be taking place about disclosure of information about the union's assets, he said.

The judge, adjourning the application *Sine Die*, said he was "slightly unhappy" that an agreement had not already been reached. He said the court was anxious if possible to ensure that the union had sufficient funds exempt from the sequestration order to enable it to pay such things as sickness and retirement benefits "which at the moment of course they are not able to do".

The judge said the matter was going to be the subject of discussions between the commissioners and the union. He said: "The commissioners for example, quite rightly require that the money exported to Dublin should be reimported to England. That will be one of the many matters to be discussed."

Oil pollution report

The Government said yesterday it was in overall agreement with the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution's report on sea pollution submitted in late 1981.

The report concluded that, while current levels of marine oil pollution were unlikely to cause permanent damage, minimizing the severe short-term effects of large spills and their prevention could be improved.

Welsh local authorities will receive about £293m for capital expenditure in 1984-85, compared with £296m this year, but the Government will withhold about £19m in case capital spending this year exceeds cash limits.

The Wyndham-Western colliery near Pontypridd, south Wales, is to close. It has not been producing coal since last September and most of the 450 men have transferred to other collieries.

The Jumbo crossword

The *Times* Jumbo Christmas crossword will appear on Saturday December 24. Newsagents may wish to order extra supplies to ensure that regular readers can order a copy.

Reaction to bombing

Prior asks US to cut IRA cash

By Kenneth Gosting

Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, said yesterday that Americans could help enormously to fight terrorism internationally by giving no further help to Noraid, the IRA's fund-raising organization, or other groups.

Speaking on the national breakfast television programme *Good Morning America*, Mr Prior said that one American had been killed and two others were injured in Saturday's car bomb explosion at Harrods in London.

"The fact is", he said, "there is a misconception among a number of people in the United States that they are supporting freedom fighters. They are doing nothing of the sort".

Mr Prior said money was being given in some cases on the basis that it was for widows and orphans.

"That is not what happens. It goes to buy arms to create the sort of attacks that have taken place in recent days."

Just before the broadcast began, the US interviewer, Barbara Walters, had asked Mr Prior if there was a particular question he wanted to answer. He specified Americans' attitude towards Noraid.

Mr Prior had a sharp reply to the IRA's apology over Saturday's attack. "That's what they always say when they carry out these attacks and they think it has been to their political advantage: they take the credit, but when something goes wrong and the reaction is one of shock and utter detestation, the IRA tries to dissociate itself from what happens."

Mr Martin Galvin, Noraid's spokesman, said in New York last night about the Harrods blast: "I regret the loss of life, but many Irish people have been killed by British occupation forces. I recognize the moral superiority of the IRA over the British Government" (Christopher Thomas writes from New York).

Adams denies rift in republican ranks

From Richard Ford, Belfast

Mr Gerry Adams, president of Sinn Fein, political wing of the Provisional IRA, yesterday denied there was a rift between the political and military wings of the movement.

He expressed regret for the Harrods bombing, but refused to condemn it.

But the MP for West Belfast said the organization never condoned civilian casualties, adding that the bomb was an example of an IRA operation that had "not gone right".

The admission by the Republican movement that the Harrods bombing had not been authorized by the "army council" is evidence that they have been embarrassed by the attack.

In both Dublin and Belfast, officials were expressing caution over calls to ban Provisional Sinn Fein. One official said: "It would give them a great Christmas bonus."

In spite of Sinn Fein's recent electoral successes, the IRA will continue to attack British soldiers during the coming year, according to a senior member of the organization whose secret strategy speech was broadcast on Granada Television's World in Action programme last night (David Cross writes).

The IRA speaker told last month's annual conference of Sinn Fein delegates in Dublin: "Our military successes and our political progress are of equal importance."

Bomb-hoax caller jailed

John Michael Daly, aged 23, an interior decorator, of Uxendon Hill, Wembley, in north London, was jailed for three months by Harrow magistrates yesterday after pleading guilty to making a bomb hoax call to Scotland Yard on Sunday night.

Also at Harrow, Gary Alan Coomber, aged 26, a London Transport cleaner, of Binyon Crescent, Stanmore, was remanded in custody until Friday charged with making a hoax call to British Telecom on Saturday.

In Bristol, Michael Freye, aged 19, a civil servant, and Andrew Hurley, aged 20, a barrister, were remanded on bail until January 11 after admitting making a false call to a Bristol nightclub.

Strathclyde police are holding nine men under the provisions of the Prevention of Terrorism Act after raids in Glasgow over the past two days.

Geoffrey Edwards, aged 25, a full-time private in the Ulster Defence Regiment, was charged in Belfast yesterday with the murder of Mr Peter Corrigan

By-election allegations dismissed

Allegations that Mr David Maclean, Conservative MP for Penrith, was guilty of incurring illegal election expenses were dismissed by a High Court judge yesterday as "wholly misconceived".

Rejecting a claim by Lieutenant Commander Eric Morgan, aged 73, the Liberal Labour, Co-op candidate in the Penrith by-election in July, that the judge was wrong to find that his numerous complaints had been "magnified out of all proportion".

An accusation that Lord Whitelaw, who held the seat before entering the Lords, was guilty of "undue influence" and had impeded the election was, the judge said, "an enormous impertinence which should never have appeared, even in a misconceived petition such as this".

Mr Morgan, of Hollows, Matherdale, Cumbria, now faces a bill, likely to be several thousand pounds, for Mr Maclean's legal costs.

Women PCs 'minimize' psychology

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

Policewomen see less value in using psychological techniques in policing than male officers, the British Psychological Society was told yesterday.

The finding, which was described as surprising by Mr Peter Ainsworth of the department of social administration at the Manchester University, may be due to the women believing they need a tough, ruthless approach to do well in male-dominated police forces, he suggested.

Alternatively they may rely on traditional female "intuitive" powers so they believe formal psychological techniques have little to offer.

The findings presented to the society's conference in London come from a relatively small study involving four police forces and 167 male and 23 female officers.

Under 14 per cent of the male officers thought psychology of little practical use in policing, against more than 43 per cent of the women.

Fewer of the women officers believed that psychology had something to offer in crowd and riot control, in dealing with domestic disturbances, in community relations or in training generally, the survey found.

£293m for Wales

Welsh local authorities will receive about £293m for capital expenditure in 1984-85, compared with £296m this year, but the Government will withhold about £19m in case capital spending this year exceeds cash limits.

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STOPS DIARRHOEA - FAST

Judge jai for tv says he

Travel a must be

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Stars' p for TV and film

Judge jails child sex man for two years and says he was misrepresented

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

The Lord Chancellor, Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone, has called for the transcript of the proceedings in which a senior judge at the Central Criminal Court said that he felt sympathy for a man with a drinking problem who admitted having intercourse with a friend's daughter, aged seven.

When Judge Brian Gibbens, aged 71, yesterday jailed the man, William Watson-Sweeney, for two years, "to mark the enormity of the crime", he criticized reports of the case in Saturday's newspapers. He said that after seeing The Times, he decided, as there was such "gross distortion" of what he had said and meant, that he would avoid reading any other papers, to avoid prejudicing his sentencing yesterday.



Judge Brian Gibbens: Lord Chancellor asks for transcript.

He told Watson-Sweeney, aged 35, of Vernon Road, Guildford, Surrey: "I must send you to prison to mark the enormity of the crime. It is obvious from your remorse and horror you are never likely to do it again. This persuades me that I can treat you with less severity."

In Watson-Sweeney's case, he said, it was an unexpected, unpremeditated and sudden crime. By his own fault his life had been knocked to pieces. When the child first went indoors with Watson-Sweeney he had no indecent intention and a game with her got out of hand. The judge said that the girl was not harmed, no force was used and her virginity was still intact.

Everyone felt sorry for her and her family, Judge Gibbens said. However, he was not prepared to pass sentence by rule of thumb and made no apology for feeling compassion for anyone who had brought disaster and shame upon himself by a momentary lapse. Drink had prompted his disgusting behaviour.

Travel agent staff 'must be qualified'

Package tour buyers must continue to be protected from untrained inexperienced and incompetent staff, the Restrictive Practices Court held yesterday.

The quality of travel agency staff should be subject to compulsory minimum standards to be imposed and policed by the Association of British Travel Agents. Mr Justice Anthony Lincoln, the court chairman, said a purchaser of a foreign package tour was entering into one of the most substantial transactions in his family budget. He could not readily, if at all, find out whether the travel agency staff were offering him the most suitable service, knew what they were talking about or were really able to get the services expected.

The court was giving a reserved judgment on minimum professional standards needed for travel agency staff. The ruling was a sequel to the main judgment last December when legal approval was given for the "closed shop" system among ABTA members. Abta's "closed shop" among its 2,400 members had been challenged by the Office of Fair

Editor should go, MP says

Mr Peter Preston, editor of The Guardian, was censured yesterday in a Commons motion which questioned his decision to surrender a leaked document to the Ministry of Defence. The motion, tabled by Mr Brian Sedgmore, Labour MP for Hackney, South and Shoreditch, said that the editor's act should serve as a public warning that the paper could not be trusted to protect its sources and called on Mr Preston and his colleagues "to consider his fitness to continue as editor of a radical national newspaper".

Hearing dogs anniversary

The Hearing Dogs for the Deaf scheme, launched at Crufts Dog Show last year, has completed its first full working year with five dogs trained and placed in their new households, three in training and a target of 20 for 1984.

Computer helps handicapped boy

Lawrence Nicklin, aged 13, who is physically handicapped and who has speech difficulties, is now able to write and do arithmetic after being provided with his own computer. He is a pupil at Blackfriars special school, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffordshire, whose headmaster, Mr Bill Hollinghurst, said yesterday: "This is his first real communication with the outside world."

Poison alert

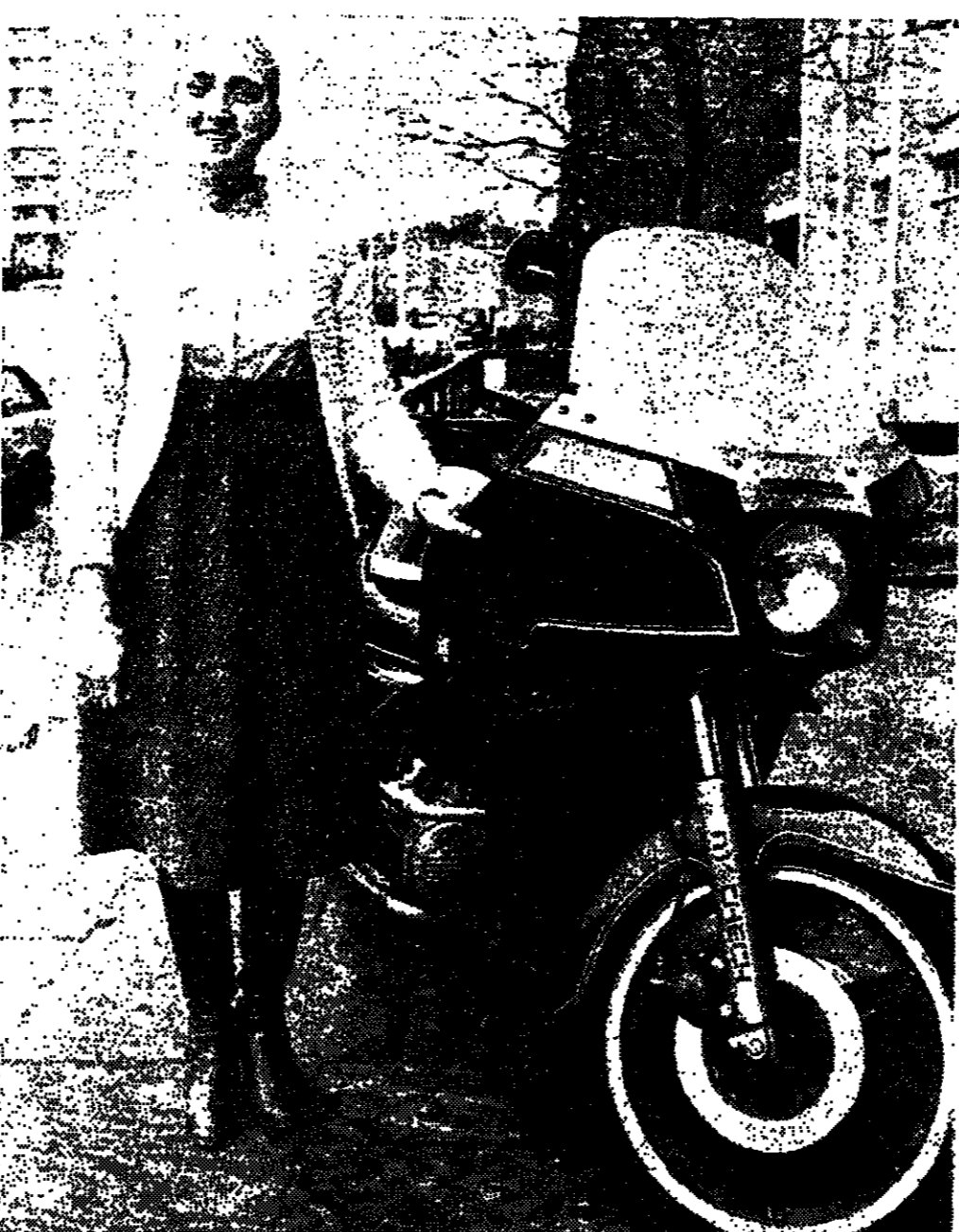
More than 40 turkeys were taken from the shelves at a Tesco supermarket in Mansfield, Nottinghamshire, after a local newspaper was warned by the Animal Liberation Front that 12 birds had been injected with the poisonous parquat. Tests revealed they had not been tampered with.

Murder remand

Ian Howell, aged 28, a kitchen porter, was remanded in custody until Friday by Oxford magistrates yesterday, charged with murdering Miss Jennifer Wright, aged 18, at an Oxford hostel where they were both staying.

Wigan forgives Orwell's gibes

With a blind eye to insult, Wigan plans to honour George Orwell in 1984. The Wigan Metropolitan Borough Council has agreed to contribute towards a sculpture for the town where Orwell stayed briefly in 1936 gathering material for The Road to Wigan Pier. What Orwell saw in those days clearly appalled him. The lodging house where he stayed was "utterly depressing" with its grimy blankets, damp washing hanging in front of the fire and dirty food served on sticky oil cloth.



Transferred to foot patrol: WPC Wendy de Lamay.

WPC claims discrimination

A woman police constable was banned from regular patrols with a married male colleague because they worked too well together, an industrial tribunal in London was told yesterday. PC Wendy de Lamay is accusing the Metropolitan Police of sexual discrimination and victimization because of the ruling, which she claimed was made by Chief Supt Brian Wallace of the force's south-west traffic area.

Miss de Lamay, aged 25, of Englefield Green, Egham, Surrey, said that after bringing the complaint she was transferred from her job in the traffic division to foot patrol in Fulham.

Mr David Pannick, representing Miss de Lamay, told the tribunal that Mr Wallace made a general ruling that women police officers should never be given permanent patrols with married men.

Earlier this year he informed Miss de Lamay, who had a high reputation and glowing reports of her ability, that she must give up her partnership with PC Trevor Atfield.

According to Mr Pannick, Mr Wallace told her: "When I see you two working together so well and happy I am jealous. Of course, if you were a man I would not have to make this decision if you had a face like the back of a bus it would be better. But you are both attractive people."

Mr Pannick said Mr Wallace had indicated that, although he did not believe the officers were having an affair, he thought one might start if they continued their partnership. "I have had you checked out", he is alleged to have said. Mr Wallace is claimed to have told the two officers that he did not want the men's wives

complain to him of mixed partnerships.

Mr Pannick told the tribunal that the decision effectively made it impossible for Miss de Lamay to go on regular police car patrol, thus affecting her future prospects.

He said that although Mr Wallace had described her as one of the best workers at the Hampton police garage, she was later returned to foot patrol. Recently, he said, Miss de Lamay, who has been in the police force for five years, gained the highest marks, 99.5 per cent, on a driving school course.

The case, the first sexual discrimination action against the Metropolitan Police, has been taken up by the Police Federation and the Equal Opportunities Commission. The hearing was adjourned until today.

£400m cash aid closer for Airbus

The Government appears to be moving close to providing launch aid for the 150-seat Airbus A320, which seeks to give Britain and Europe a big share of the short-to-medium distance airliners market well into the next century.

British Aerospace, a 20 per cent partner in the Airbus consortium, is seeking £400m to get the new-technology aircraft off the ground, and a government announcement is expected when Parliament reassembles in mid-January.

The Department of Industry agreed yesterday that there was "much common ground" between the Government and the TUC after a meeting between Mr Norman Lamont, the aerospace minister, and a delegation from the TUC nationalized industries committee.

Airbus predicts that the A320 could win about a thousand orders by the end of the century at a current price of between £16m and £17m each.

With orders already received from France, Britain (British Caledonian) and Yugoslavia, the A320 programme would go ahead with or without British participation, the TUC delegation argued. Mr Lamont apparently agreed but a department spokesman emphasized later that the Government had to be sure that the project was viable.

'Trade drain' caused by town parking shortage

By Clifford Webb, Motoring Correspondent

Local authorities are coming under increasing pressure from town centre businesses to provide more parking space to stop the "trade drain" to suburban shopping centres. The RAC has just completed a survey of parking meters which shows that despite an increase in revenue from metres from £53.8m to £133.47m over the past five years parking problems in the main towns have worsened considerably.

Dissident wins damages for libel

Mr Vladimir Bukovsky, the Russian dissident living in the West, yesterday accepted undisclosed damages and his legal costs in settlement of a High Court libel action against Guardian Newspapers. He complained of an article by Dr Nicholas Humphrey, a psychologist and writer, published by The Guardian in March 1982, which could be read as suggesting that Mr Bukovsky resorted to false "pseudo-revelations" to distort information concerning life in the Soviet Union and Soviet foreign policy.

Guardian Newspapers, Mr Peter Preston, editor of The Guardian, and Dr Humphrey, apologizing through their counsel, Mr Desmond Browne, said they did not intend to suggest that Mr Bukovsky's writings were knowingly false or distorted.

Universities plan to fight back in political arena

By Lucy Hodges, Education Correspondent

The committee representing Britain's university vice-chancellors is restructuring itself under the chairmanship of Lord Flowers, rector of Imperial College, London, so that it can better defend and rebuild the university system.

It has decided to stop being purely reactive, and to take the initiative. "We want to be more effective and hope thereby that we will have part of the instrument we need for rebuilding the universities", Lord Flowers said.

The university system has lacked an effective voice in the past and that lack has been felt keenly in the past three years when the sector has come under political pressure. The cash cuts were absorbed rather than fought.

More cuts are now being talked about and the University Grants Committee has launched a Great Debate at the prompting of Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education, raising 28 questions, including academic standards. The universities are being forced to examine themselves and the committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals wants to be in the vanguard of this examination.

Lord Flowers said that the committee hoped eventually to have permanent specialist groups looking at its relationship with schools, with the polytechnics and with the health service.

It has set up a group among the universities and industry and, as part of its decision to take the initiative, has established working parties on the alternative funding of universities and on the maintenance of academic standards, two subjects close to Sir Keith's heart. Those two groups will produce reports quickly.

The academic standards committee, chaired by Professor Philip Reynolds, Vice-Chancellor of Lancaster University, is beginning with an inquiry into the system of external examiners and whether it is adequate for guaranteeing the standards of examinations. It will also look at the supervision of PhD theses.

Lord Flowers hopes that out of this will come guidelines or a code of practice on external examining. The present system varies tremendously between subjects and between institutions.

The working party on alternative funding will look at the way in which universities are funded in other countries, particularly the United States, where companies get generous tax relief for donations to universities.

Colleges shake-up

Sir Keith gave his seal of approval yesterday to next year's plan for local authority higher education, which will almost certainly mean the closure of at least one college. In a written House of Commons reply, he said letters were being sent yesterday to local education authorities and institutions.

This is the first time this sector of education has been subjected to central planning. One key priority has been a shift from arts and social science towards the scientific, technological and business-related disciplines.

Pension warning

The National Union of Teachers, said yesterday that teachers would be very angry if they had to bear the brunt of a proposed increase in pension contributions.

Video maps planned for hikers

By Bill Johnstone, Electronics Correspondent

Maps for hikers and walkers may be made available on video and cassettes for home computers if a survey being conducted on their commercial potential by the Ordnance Survey of Great Britain proves positive.

The government body, which is charged with the duty of mapping Britain, is converting its 250,000 large scale maps into digital form to be used by a computer. Based on that experience the small scale maps, used by motorists and other road users are expected to be given the same treatment for home computers.

More than 2,000 map users, local government, national government, companies and private individuals, will take part in the survey. The small scale maps come in three categories. They are the route planner, used by transport companies and taxis; the landranger, used principally by cyclists, walkers and hikers; and the routemaster, used by motorists. The advantages of the computerization is that the user can select the type of map he wishes to have displayed.

Radioactive fallout level drops

By Clive Cookson

The amount of radioactive fallout over Britain declined last year, according to the National Radiological Protection Board. Levels today are probably lower than at any time since the 1950s, when many nuclear weapons were tested in the atmosphere.

The board's annual report on fallout, published today, shows that concentrations of the most important isotopes (strontium-90 and caesium-137) in air, rain and milk fell in 1982 to about the same level as 1980. There had been a slight increase in 1981 after a Chinese nuclear explosion in October, 1980.

The 1983 figures are not available yet, but the board expects the decline to continue. Fallout today is due mainly to the deposition of long-lived isotopes from the group of nuclear explosions which preceded the 1963 atmospheric test ban treaty. The radioactive dose which the British population receives from weapons fallout is now less than one per cent of the total exposure from all sources.

Environmental Radioactivity Surveillance Programme: Results for the UK for 1982. HMSO, £4.

Life for killer who tried to fake own death

From Our Correspondent, Manchester

A father of two who battered an insurance salesman to death in an attempt to fake his own killing was given a life sentence by a judge at Manchester Crown Court yesterday, with the recommendation that he served no less than 20 years.

James Mason, aged 31, bludgeoned his victim with a 7lb weight, disguised the body in his own clothing and dumped it in a country village. His plan was for the body to be identified as his and for £70,000 insurance money to be claimed.

But four days after the "dreadful and horrific murder" Mason gave himself up and confessed, the court was told. Mason, a bakery worker, of Bolton Road, Ashton-in-Makerfield, Greater Manchester, was told by Mr Justice Beldam:

Stars' plan for TV and films

United British Artists, the production company headed by top stars, is to make three films next year and record three theatre productions for independent television.

The company, which has Richard Johnson, Albert Finney, John Hurt, Glenda Jackson, Diana Rigg and Maggie Smith on the board of directors, yesterday unveiled its plans for the coming year.

It also announced that Harold Pinter, the playwright, was joining the company as a director and had accepted a commission to write the screenplay for one of the films, Turtle Diary, which is about Londoners obsessed with sea turtles in the zoo.

The three theatre plays will be shown on Channel 4. They are The Biko Inquest, based on the inquest into the death of the South African black political leader Steve Biko; Sergeant Musgrave's Dance by John Arden, and the comedy Everything in the Garden.

The other two films will be The Rector's Daughter, and One Minute.

Jailed bank manager in £2m frauds

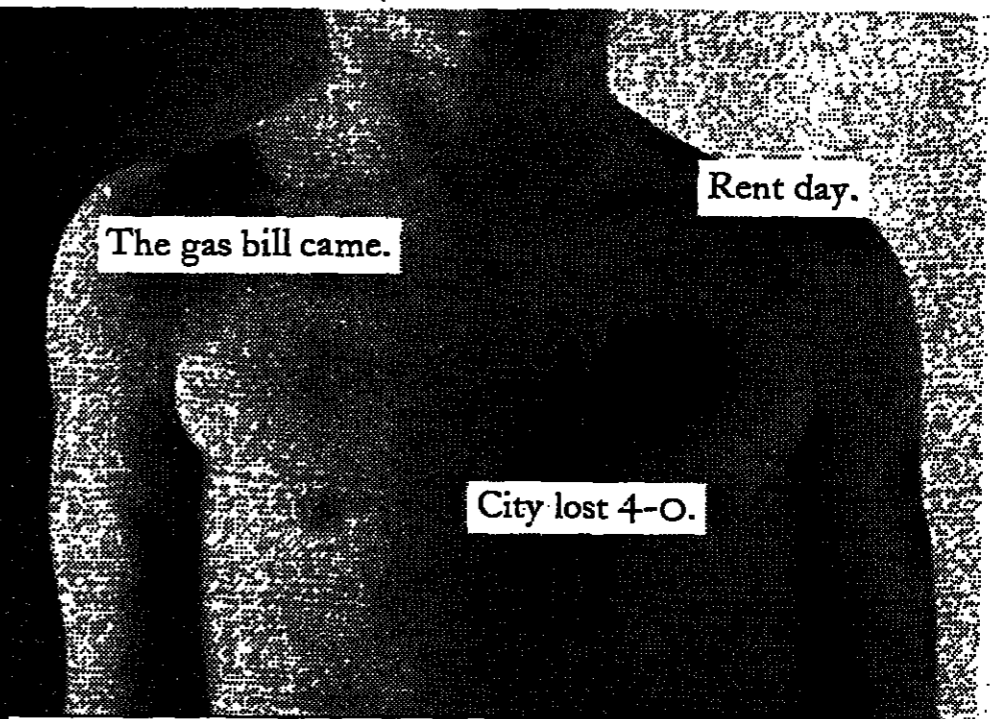
A former bank manager was jailed yesterday for frauds amounting to almost £2m, most of which he gave a woman trickster.

A judge at the Central Criminal Court was told that Guy Fisher, aged 59, became trapped in a web of deceit spun by a twice-divorced mother of seven children named as Mrs Pamela Shaw, aged 55.

Fisher, of Christopher Close, Sidcup, Kent, gave her £1.5m in "loans" for a fictitious business deal involving diamonds belonging to the late Shah of Iran.

Fisher, a wartime major in the Gurkhas, pleaded guilty to false accounting while manager of the overseas department of the Midland Bank Fidelity and Finance Street branch in the City of London, between 1978 and 1981. He admitted making unauthorized loans to five customers, transferring money to them from other people's accounts.

Judge Lewisohn gave Fisher a 12 month jail sentence, suspending all but three months of it for two years. He accepted that Fisher had not make a penny from his frauds and had lost his job, pension and home.



The gas bill came.

Rent day.

City lost 4-0.

Advertisement for NSPCC with headline 'Luckily, we got there before his father was made redundant.' and a form for donations.

PARLIAMENT December 19 1983

Home Secretary hesitant over banning Provisional Sinn Fein

TERRORISM

The Government has not ruled out the possibility of banning Provisional Sinn Fein, but there are arguments in both directions...

order duties and had deployed additional officers from special units, including dog handlers, to inner London districts...

Mr Gerald Kaufman, chief Opposition spokesman on home affairs (Manchester, Gorton, Lab), after expressing sympathy to the bereaved and injured...

Falklands crisis will be exercised by them today with the same determination. Will he appreciate how the people of Northern Ireland at this time...

long experience and the House will want to consider what he has said. Mr Eileen Griffiths (Bury St Edmunds, C), parliamentary adviser to the Police Federation...

believe my shame is shared by Irish people everywhere, that anyone could commit such an atrocity in the name of Ireland.

Northern Ireland and Britain over the Christmas months. In particular, I refer to the demand for prohibition of Sinn Fein...

He went on: The IRA made a statement last night in 'Dublin in which they admitted responsibility for the attack, as well as for the bomb outside Woolwich barracks ten days ago...

Rees: There is no point in detention charged specifically with the task of responding to bomb threats...

Mr James Malpas (Lagan Valley, OUP), on behalf of the people we represent may we offer our deepest sympathy to the IRA and hope for the attainment of those objectives...

Hume: If they are patriots, God save Ireland. We should not act with panic. The dignity of the House today is something we ought to put over...

Mr John Hume (Foye, SDLP), not for the first time in 14 years I have written to the House to describe an atrocity and there are not any more, they have all been used...

Mr Martin Flannery (Sheffield, Hillsborough, Lab), I would join Mr Hume in his sentiments. All Labour MPs share the horror at this barbaric act which slaughtered people who had nothing to do with the struggle...

Mr Clare Short (Birmingham, Ladywood, Lab), while we all join in condemning this vile and nasty act, will he not take account of the fact that it could lead to escalating violence in



Dickens: People want capital punishment

What has happened is that the IRA has found that the action taken by its members has caused universal revulsion and condemnation. It is a price of national respect for them now to try and disown and claim that some kinds of brutal murder are legitimate and some are illegitimate.

He has also increased the number of CID and Special Branch officers by 200 in central London and employed a further four Special Patrol Group units totalling 120 officers in the inner districts.

Mr Brian: On occasions like this the unity of this House is a bastion of protection for us all. Mr James Malpas (Lagan Valley, OUP), on behalf of the people we represent may we offer our deepest sympathy to the IRA and hope for the attainment of those objectives...

Mr Brian: He is absolutely right to condemn murder from whatever position it comes and it should not be our task to dignify in any way these acts committed for whatever reasons as anything other than the foulest crimes and the most barbaric atrocity. He has given views from his

Mr Walker: I am grateful for that invitation. Gas and electricity price increases will be decided and announced at the appropriate time by the industries concerned.

Mr Walker: To assist Christmas good cheer, there is no possibility of electricity increases until the end of the winter. If there are increases, they will be at the rate of the very low current rate of inflation.

Mr Walker: The important thing is that financial targets set by the Government should be complied with and should be met. The nationalised industries should also take into consideration the general economic scene. I am sure that is what they will do.

Government want 2% price rise

The Government has decided in its mind to introduce emergency legislation to compel the nationalised power industries to increase gas and electricity prices. Mr Peter Walker, Secretary of State for Energy, said in the Commons.

Mr Walker: There is no question of powers. We are having a perfectly reasonable dialogue with the Electricity Council and asking them to consider its price increases over the last two years and making a suggestion to them. This morning I met the council's chairman who told me he would carefully consider the views expressed by the Cabinet.

Mr Walker: Over the last two years in real terms gas and electricity prices have gone down. Mr Kenneth Lewis (Stamford and Spalding, C), at this particular time of the year, to have the total good will of every member of the Cabinet, if it should happen that the electricity industry puts its prices up, it makes a very large profit, will he try to persuade the Cabinet we should

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Whitehall brief

Nothing new for 'Yes, Minister'

The big disappointment of the 1983 Budget lectures, delivered by Sir Douglas Wass, former Permanent Secretary to the Treasury, is that Mr Antony Jay, creator, with Mr Jonathan Lynn, of 'Yes, Minister', did not hear them.

THE WASS RECOMMENDATIONS

- Officials should oppose government actions which are unlawful or unconstitutional and resign if necessary. More staff and better briefing for Commons select committees. As an experiment a few civil servants should be seconded to strengthen professional support for the Opposition. A reduction of the 30-year rule secret documents to a much shorter interval. A 200-strong standing royal commission able to pick its own subjects for 'dispassionate and authoritative investigation free from party and sectional prejudice'.

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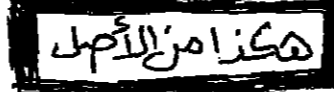
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The Tripoli evacuation

Israeli hardliners keep up pressure on Arafat's besieged PLO fighters

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem

The Israeli Government appeared in no mood last night to give the formal guarantees for the safe passage of Mr Yasser Arafat and his 4,000 Palestine Liberation Organization fighters, guarantees said to have been sought by Greece.



Mr Modai: Accused the French and Greeks.

Army accused of errors over Tyre bombing

From Our Own Correspondent, Jerusalem

Military errors which may lead to courts martial have been revealed by the official Israeli inquiry into the November 4 bomb attack in Tyre which killed 61 people, 29 of them members of the Israeli defence forces.

All decked out for Christmas Down Under



Invincibly cheerful: The aircraft carrier Invincible, undeterred by her sticky welcome in Australia, displaying a seasonal greeting on route from Auckland to Sydney.



Eyes front: Members of the Salvadorean Army's Morazan Battalion marching out of San Francisco Gotera, capital of Morazan department, to search for guerrillas who had wiped out an army communications base on the Cacahuatque volcano, killing more than 50 soldiers.

Nicaragua mobilizes coffee-picking army

From Alan Tomlinson, Managua

Nicaragua is mobilizing tens of thousands of volunteers to bring in its all-important coffee crop which has become the latest target of the US-based anti-Sandinista contras.

Andropov dying, says Newsweek

New York (Reuters, AFP) - Soviet doctors have given President Andropov less than two years to live, the American magazine Newsweek reported yesterday.

EEC budget will be adopted today

From Ian Murray, Brussels

The EEC's £15.5bn budget will be adopted today, despite a letter to the Parliament from the Council of Ministers questioning the legal basis of parts of it.

Ministers dodge issue on Cyprus

From Our Own Correspondent, Brussels

The EEC again backed away from positive action against the self-styled Turkish Republic of Cyprus when foreign ministers met in Brussels yesterday and succeeded in facing both ways at once.

Four seized for planning attacks on US

Terrorists and others were arrested with preparing attacks against American barracks and army depots and state railway property, the public prosecutor's office announced here.

Fans sentenced

Hamburg (AFP) - Two football supporters were given prison sentences, one of them suspended, and a third ordered to do community service, for their part in the death of a 16-year-old rival supporter struck by a stone.

Left's victory

Paris (Reuters) - The French left warded off a strong challenge from the Opposition in a parliamentary by-election by joining forces behind the centre-left candidate, M Bernard Charles in the south-western region of Lot.

Thirty-year war

Jakarta (Reuters) - Two 65-year-old Indonesian soldiers, who thought the war of independence against the Dutch was still going on, have been found living among isolated tribes in the central Sumatran jungle.

17 executed

Tehran (Reuters) - Seventeen people convicted by revolutionary courts of dealing in drugs and involvement in gun battles with security forces were executed in Iran, Tehran radio reported.

Gift's Water

Brussels (AP) - Wellington senator yester of the gift's water budget...

TV massacre

Bangkok (Reuters) - Five men fired machine guns into a crowd of about 30 Thai villagers watching a television show, killing 10 and wounding three others. The motive was not known.

Lucky turtle

Akron, Ohio (AP) - A rubber company researcher is hoping to get a crippled, 350lb sea turtle named Lucky on the road to recovery with rubber flippers to replace the two that were bitten off by a shark.

Turnabout on Ottawa health Bill

From John Best, Ottawa

Thanks to a sudden and unexpected turnabout by the opposition Progressive Conservative Party, legislation to remove inequities from Canada's national health insurance plan - known as Medicare - appears certain of relatively smooth sailing through Parliament.

US lists Soviet arms control violations

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

The Reagan Administration is nearing completion of a review of Soviet violations of arms control agreements. The report is to be presented to Congress early in the new year, and although its contents will be classified the Administration is coming under increasing pressure from conservatives to make at least part of its contents public.



Mr Adelman: "We cannot ignore these problems"

Air raid by S Africa 'hit school'

From Richard Bassett, Vienna

Britain: for the year to £809m. The money falls £42m short of the total Britain believes it is owed for that year, and the Government has promised to continue to work for full payment.

Letters, page 11

Peugeot plant workers vow to resist cuts

Paris (Reuters) - Workers at the French Peugeot car firm's strike-hit Talbot plant vowed yesterday to resist 2,000 redundancies worked out at the weekend by the Government and the management of the loss-making company.

Mayerling prince 'murdered by French agents'

From Richard Bassett, Vienna

Austria's Crown Prince Rudolf, long thought to have committed suicide with his lover, was murdered by French agents, according to Habsburg family papers published for the first time in Vienna yesterday.

Large advertisement for Samaritans with text 'Suicide notes.' and contact information.

Form for Samaritans with fields for Name, Address, and phone numbers.

Hope is all but dead for many Lebanese. Every day sees a new boatload of them leaving their homeland; families who never want to see their country again, who have given up all hope. But in his concluding article from Beirut, Robert Fisk finds that kindness and hospitality still exist alongside the horror

Escaping from the human zoo of hatred

The Lebanese are always talking about the need to get away from their despair, and at first you wonder why they don't travel into the mountains. True, the old watering holes of Bhamdoun and Aley are battlefields, but it is not difficult to find an excuse to go further north. There are US missiles at Aqoura, according to a leftist newspaper, so we drive off in the early afternoon, turning up into the Mediterranean and climbing into the Sierras where the air turns cold and the road becomes a frozen, muddy track.

Along precipices by the snowline the Laglouq mountains appear on our left then twist round and return mischievously on our right until, across a title ditch, there is an entire Roman temple, the gutting off its roof, the hand-carved tablet of an Aurelian legion lying on its side. A Lebanese soldier offers us coffee in a damp tent he will be wearing an American marine uniform soon - all his men will - and he says it makes them feel confident.

We climb higher where the air gets rarer past Phoenician caves in the frost. There are no missiles. But then, there in the clouds on a plateau, we almost drive into a squadron of heavy tanks, hulls down in the mud, barrels pointing through the fog towards us, Lebanese troops across the road, rifles at the ready. How do you escape from Lebanon?

It happens all the time, this sudden contrast of light and darkness. It is June, 1982. The Israelis are advancing up the Arqoub and the incoming shells are vibrating through the ground, but when we stop to ask a man the name of his village, his young wife runs out and asks us into their home for coffee - good, kind people who demonstrate how strong are the ties of hospitality and generosity, even at moments of great danger. We sit in the darkened front room, staring at each other, listening to the shells slamming into the ground, smelling the cordite. How could such people allow Lebanon to slip so far?



Two little girls watch as pails of black smoke rise above a bombed petrol depot in Tripoli

She complained my clothes smelt of death

Months later, further north, we are driving through the Bekaa, (rpt Bekaa), turn a corner and there are hooded gunmen across the road. Nothing is so concentrating to the mind as the sight of a man in a hood. Executioners wear hoods. One of them comes to the car window. His hood is a large glossy red bag with an open zip for his mouth and two crude slits for his eyes.

"British journalist," I hear myself say and he wants to know the politics of *The Times*. He starts a discussion, right there on the open road in his hood with his gun in his hand, on the ethics of press freedom. When I tell him the pen is mightier than the sword,

he smiles. I know he is smiling because through the slits I can see his eyes narrow slightly. We can go.

To the Lebanese now, this sort of thing is the presentiment of fear, that calculated moment when a country self-destructs and produces something quite dreadful amid the mendacity and the beautiful. How does one otherwise account for a visit to Baalbek to meet Hussein Moussawi, whom the Americans suspect planned the October bombings?

A Lebanese who knows the road well claims that travelling from Baalbek to Beirut is like going from the jungle to the zoo. He's right. There was a man who turned up with a coffee stall outside the Chatila Palestinian refugee camp three hours after the massacre, knowing that those who had to bury the dead would be thirsty. Fifty pence a cup. Hard times.

They say that the children of Beirut need more and more psychological

help, though there are those who suspect it may be their parents who need assistance. We all suffer from bad dreams. After Chatila, I woke up convinced there were corpses stacked on my bed. In the morning Ayesha, my cleaning lady, who once protested about the din of shellfire while washing my floor, complained that I had been in the camps so long my clothes smelt of death. In a nightmare once, a jet flew right through my bedroom wall, and out the window.

Most troubling of all are the unanswered questions. Nothing quite like Lebanon has ever happened before. Perhaps none realize this more painfully now than the army which came into the country so blithely and at such cost in human suffering in the summer of 1982. The darkness is closing over the Israelis, too, in Lebanon, and their fear is also palpable on the cold roads to the south, unsmiling, waiting to be attacked.

Then someone breaks the pattern and a soldier becomes a human.

Just south of Damour an Israeli is sitting on a office swivel chair atop a bank of earth, but he walks over to our car because he sees a colleague and his child in the back seat. The little girl is seven and is mesmerized by the soldier's rifle. The Israeli leans into the car and shakes her hand. "My name is Issac," he says, and you can tell he wants to be smiled at. We wish each other safe home. Long after the Israelis retreated out of Damour Issac's chair remained perched on the earth-embankment. Now, when we are driving up the road through shellfire, we know we are halfway to safety when we see Issac's chair.

Do the armies of Lebanon possess any poets to catalogue their journey down their long, profound dull tunnel? Perhaps we meet them. We are in the Chouf foothills and come across an Israeli armoured unit bivouacked

beside an olive grove. The officer shouts at us to go away, but one of the soldiers is very young, he has a big, open face full of friendliness and asks the girl travelling with me to take his photograph as he sits on his armoured vehicle. She does and he gives us his address, but when we later develop the picture it comes out a curious sepia brown and the young man's hair style looks strangely old-fashioned. His armoured personnel carrier, a relic of Cambrai rather than Lebanon. Is this really the young man we met? We send the photograph off to Israel and wonder if he is alive.

Is it only Lebanon that can turn Clausewitz on his head and make diplomacy the logical extension of war, a country in which political dialogue is a possible, though not probable, outcome of bloodshed, in which a group of bored, largely old men can meet at last in Geneva and conclude only that their country is Arab (then disagree afterwards)?

Each day now, a ship, a converted British Rail ferry called the "Earl Curline", steams past my window for Cyprus, butting into the winter storms off the Corniche. In the old days it carried the Lebanese who merely wanted to escape the war while the airport was closed. Now it is carrying many of them away forever: families who never want to see their country again, who have given up all hope.

There are more portents of a titanic upheaval

From the boat, you can just see the old Crusader castle at Byblos, one of the oldest inhabited towns on earth where we still go on Sundays to sit in the Roman and Phoenician ruins. It is a gloowering autumn day and the rains have washed away the mud above the Byblos rocks. From the soft earth, we are pulling fractured pieces of old Greek jars with dark painting round the lips, and small bits of mosaic of delicate greens and whites and light reds. And then there is one distant burst of gunfire from far to the south-east, from the Metn hills or the Chouf, and even the old curator who is watching us turns away.

The danger cannot be analysed. It is like that moment in *The Cherry Orchard* when Madame Ranevsky and her friends are packing and there is a distant breaking sound as if a cable in a mineshaft has snapped. You experience these moments more and more frequently in Lebanon these days: portents of some titanic upheaval waiting to come. In the past, we dismissed them. Now it is not so easy.

Tomorrow The making of bestseller



An English terrace and a Scottish tenement

Living space

Why does housing vary from region to region? Why were self-contained houses or cottages or terraces built in England and Wales whereas the pattern in Edinburgh and Glasgow was tenements? And what was the effect of this? These are the sort of questions social historians are asking as they turn their attention to housing - traditionally the preserve of the economic or architectural historian - in an attempt to get away from the view that housing is simply an investment in bricks and mortar.

Martin Daunton, in his book on working-class housing (1983) and John Barnett, in his research, see houses as the containers of social life and consider the articulation of space within them: the strict segregation in the nineteenth century upper- and middle-class houses between adults, children and servants, and the reintegration of this space in the twentieth century. David Englander charts the social conflicts that arise from housing in his book *Landlords and Tenants in Urban Britain, 1838-1918* (1983).

Patient's view

This winter, in a series of seminars convened by Dr Roy Porter, the Wellcome Institute for the History of Medicine has been looking at the experience of disease and illness from the sixteenth to the nineteenth century from the point of view of the patient and sufferer rather than from the viewpoint of doctors and specialists. Contributors drew their evidence from Puritan diaries like those of Pepys and Ralph Josselin, from tracts on medical care, adverts for patent medicine and from reconstructions of the lay rituals of childbirth and death.

Juliet Gardner

Home front handicap

War is too important a subject to be left to the military historians, and so social-history research continues to concentrate on the impact war has on society. The Social History Society conference in Sheffield in the New Year takes "War and Society" as its theme. Two of the plenary sessions will be taken up with the effects of "total war" - that is, war in which participation is not limited to those soldiers fighting, but involves the entire civilian population.

Dr Clive Emsley, of the Open

FINDINGS

A series reporting on research Social History

University, is using the model of Britain and France during the Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars - arguably the first example of "total war" - to dispute this idea of "participation by social change: women getting the vote, and increased job opportunities, for example, after the First World War.

Dr Emsley joins the growing band of historians like Martin Pugh at Newcastle and David Englander and Tony Mason, authors of *War and Politics: the Experience of Servicemen in Two World Wars*, which Macmillan are bringing out in the spring, who are sceptical of the participation-reward equation, are inclined to think that the First World War, far from advancing the cause of women's suffrage, retarded

Cottage industry

A nineteenth-century artisan's cottage, belonging to Ruskin College, Oxford, houses the new History Workshop Centre for Social History. It is an appropriate home for such a venture. History Workshop was launched at Ruskin College in 1967 to encourage working men and women from the labour and trade union movements to engage in research and construct their own history and, although the movement has broadened its compass since then, its research has a particular emphasis on the experience of labour history, local history and oral history.

The Centre, which will organize seminars and research projects throughout the country, and will also work with centres abroad such as the Ecole des Hautes Etudes in Paris, the Max Planck Institute, Göttingen, and the Ragnieri Institute in Florence, will have the same aims as the History Workshop has always had: to eliminate the divisions between the "production" and "consumption" of history, to widen the scope and direction of history teaching in schools, to act as a social history research centre for part-time historians and local groups, and to associate scholars and researchers in collaborative projects.

Its researchers will continue the preoccupation with the history of gender division, family and home, and the Centre intends to become a focus for the study of the history cultures that go to make up Britain.

Cartoon catalogue

A grant from the Leverhulme Trust has enabled the Centre for the Study of Cartoon and Caricature at the University of Kent to begin the considerable task of indexing and cataloguing the cartoons of that creator both of "Jooss Bull", the new, modern woman of the 1920s,

Low's Joan Ball stifles a yawn in the cause of peace in 1929

and the last remnant of the British Empire spirit, the choleric Colonel Blimp, David Low. The Centre, set up 10 years ago, now houses more than 60,000 original drawings of cartoons published in the twentieth century, and the curator and Research Fellow, Jim Schoff, believes that it is not only political cartoons which are valuable sources for the assumptions of their age. Consequently the Centre has holdings not only of the work of such cartoonists as Vicky, Strube and Will Dyson, but also representatives of the social comments contained in Carol Day, the Flutters, Flook - and, of course, Andy Capp.

Marriage factor

Historians used to assume that population growth in Europe was the result of rising birth rates and falling death rates. Now, however, it is recognized that the principal control on population growth has been changes in the institution of marriage. Unlike birth and death, the decision to marry was always sensitive to social and economic changes for in Western Europe, marriage and economic independence were closely related.

Doctors dissect a corpse: a Hogarth drawing

A free new outfit for anyone too mean to serve Smirnoff or buy a new fairy.

CUT OUT AND DRESS BATTERED OLD FAIRY.

SMIRNOFF
IF IT ISN'T SMOOTH IT ISN'T SMIRNOFF

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 228)

| | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
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| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |

ACROSS: 1 Japanese battle cry (6) 2 Take off (4) 3 Trudge (5) 4 Drinking glass (7) 5 Mistaken idea (8) 6 Willingly (4) 7 Thought transference (9) 8 Fully developed (4) 9 Dutch spirit (8) 10 Knotted thread (5) 11 Free from restraint (5) 12 Unite by treaty (5) 13 One or other (6)

DOWN: 1 Advantage (3) 2 Fastening device (3) 3 Introverted (13) 4 Mute (4) 5 Unsound reasoning (7) 6 Learn (5) 7 Ring (4) 8 Queen's gown (4) 9 Reader unconscious (4) 10 Characteristic (7) 11 Tot (4) 12 Question closely (5) 13 Watchful (6) 14 Ignited (8)

SOLUTION TO No 227
ACROSS: 1 Pecosdillos 2 Ageless 3 Titie 4 See 13 5 Onto 6 Poor 7 Dimple 8 Solid 9 Beam 10 Polite 11 Thin 12 Tarn 13 Nib 14 Fanna 15 Achieve 16 Necessitate
DOWN: 1 Even 2 Crew 3 Doss 4 Lute 5 Outwore 7 Jacob's staff 8 Geryonander 12 Eclair 14 Odd 15 Emboli 19 Leisure 20 Ruck 24 Avert 25 Napc 26 Saub 27 Shunt

moreover... Miles Kington

Vintage words of 1983

Like everyone else, we've been asking personalities of 1983 to name their favourite reading matter from the last twelve months...

Lord Dacre of Haultree: I was tremendously impressed by Atilia de Hon's personal journals, published privately somewhere in East Germany. They go a long way to showing that Atilia was not just a military leader of genius, he was also a fine writer and linguist, as the diaries are written in perfect English on W. H. Smith reporter's note pads, which are not previously known to have existed at his time. Thrilling, extraordinary stuff, and I am privileged to have been able to see them, if only for two minutes.

I have also seen a book called *Good Times, Bad Times*, which relates such weird events concerning such far-fetched people that I am bound to conclude it is almost certainly a crude fake. Thrilling stuff, all the same.

General Galtieri: My favourite reading has been the *Annals of the Argentine Law Society (Vol XVII: Coursa Marital)*. What a tale of injustice, of martyrdom, of wrongs unrighted. My only criticism of the book is that there is no mention of my own forthcoming court martial, which of course I shall be reporting exclusively for *Moreover*. So, stand aside, St Joan! Move over, Edith Cavell! I also very much enjoyed the memoirs of Sir Harold Evans, whose junta fell at about the same time as mine.

Dr Sir Roy Strong, VA and bar: I was absolutely bowled over by the first book of photographs by Prince William, probably the best of the current crop of royal photographers. Of course, the Royal Family have always had tremendously talented male figures. Have you seen the Albert show yet? Breathtaking. Do come along. You'll easily get in. Any trouble, and just mention my name.

Oh, and I thoroughly enjoyed Harry Evans's latest thriller, *Murdoch Must Fall*.

Geoff Boycott, taking to Rene McGriff: Stunned. That is how I felt when I heard the news. The unbelievable news that shocked a nation. The news that I, who had served Yorkshire man and boy for over 1,000 years, was being dropped like an old sock that the dog no longer wants.

As my mind slowly took in the unimaginable, I thought of the other great misunderstood heroes of our time. I thought of the books I had enjoyed so much this year by Peter Hall, General Galtieri, Desmond Wilcox and others, and I felt I was not alone. I also enjoyed Harold Evans's account of life at the top, *250,000: Insights Decried*.

Lord Peter Hall of the National: I have had no time this year except for the writing and reading of my own diaries, but my goodness what an achievement! The scope and vision of this epic work encompasses today's troubled world as does no other work of art except perhaps *Seberg*, for which seats are still available. Curiously enough they both share a central figure, martyred and misunderstood by inferior forces. I wonder if my diaries would make a good musical? Well, stranger things have happened. Especially at the National.

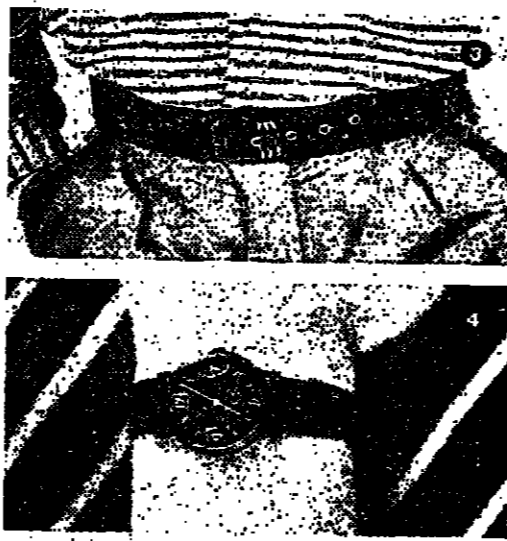
I have also enjoyed Nurse Harold Evan's autobiography, *Journalism Is Not Enough*.

Sir John Betjeman: Goodness, what a startling query! Which new volumes have I read? Well, these days I get quite weary and I spend my time in bed. Ever since one Frank Delaney came to see me at my home, a smelly chap, not very brassy, much more frank than most, I've been just like a child, with a map of me, quite simple. On the cover, if you look. Well, I'd better recommend it if he needs a few spare beds. So buy it for yourself, or send it through the post to Uncle Roy. That is all, kithkin - good heavens! One huge book I can't forget. Written by a chap called Evans. But I've not begun it yet!

FARAH
styled to fit you naturally

FASHION gifts for men by Suzy Menkes

- 1 Stained glass window patterned cardigan in loden, peat and petrol, £75 from Marcel Lassance Shop, Great Marlborough Street, W1. Also Ice, St Christopher's Place, W1. Cookies, Walthamstow, E10. Raffles, Manchester. Cream brushed-cotton shirt £25, cashmere tie £18.50, leather riding ribbed knit gloves, brown flannel trousers £49.50, all from Grey Flannel, 7 Chiltern Street, W1. Loden beret by Kangol £25.99 from Gee 2, Covent Garden, Marble Arch and SW3.
- 2 Denim blue polo shirt and ochre sweatshirt, both £17.50, brick red track pants £26.50, ochre/grey striped socks £2.25, all from Gee 2, St Christopher's Place, W1. Leather desert boots £39.99 from Russell and Bromley.
- 3 Black rubber belt £14.95, grey and black woven ikat shirt £22.95 both from Sprint, 39 Long Acre, WC2, 58a Brompton Road, SW1, 90 and 92 King's Road, SW3 and Chelsea Man concessions, Glasgow, Dundee, York, Coventry, Bath. Blue cotton trousers £39.50 from Gee 2, Long Acre WC2.
- 4 Black watch with fluorescent hieroglyphics by Laurens £45 from Paul Smith, 43/44 Floral Street, Covent Garden, WC2, 23 Avery Row W1, Byard Lane, Nottingham.
- 5 Graphic black and white sweater, also khaki/white £75, checked scarf £49, both by Giorgio Armani from Gee 2, Long Acre, WC2, Marble Arch, King's Road, SW3. Cotton dress shirt £10.99 from selected Marks & Spencer stores. Black silk bow tie £7.15 Liberty. Grey herringbone trousers with blue pinstripes £29.95 from Sprint, 39 Long Acre, WC2, 58a Brompton Road, and Chelsea Man. Patent lace-ups £36, Hobbs.
- 6 Original 1950s paisley shirt £10 from Covent Garden shop only, whipcord paisley waistcoat £26.95, cord pleat waist trousers £42, studded leather belt £21.55, tortoiseshell glasses £20. All from Paul Smith, 43/44 Floral Street, W2, 23 Avery Row, W1 and 10 Byard Lane, Nottingham.
- 7 Navy suede slippers with gold imperial print by Jean Muir for Men, approx. £43 from Campus Group, Oxford, Nottingham, Aberdeen, Edinburgh and Glasgow, John Catton, Glastonbury. Socks Liberty.
- 8 Oxblood leather brogue £29.99 from Hobbs sale, South Molton Street, W1, King's Road, SW3, Hampstead and Guildford. Socks from Liberty. Fleck tweed trousers £29.95 from Sprint, Long Acre, WC2, Brompton Road, SW1, King's Road and Chelsea Man.
- 9 Tan leather lace-up shoes £39.99 Russell & Bromley, 24 New Bond Street, W1 and branches. Mixed tartan trousers £79, peach socks £5.25, Paul Smith 43/44 Floral Street, WC2 and branches.
- 10 Jean Muir for Men claret red moiré silk robe, also navy and grey, £250 from Harvey Nichols, Knightsbridge, SW1, Brown, South Molton Street, W1, The Campus Group Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Nottingham, Oxford. Matching moiré slippers by Jean Muir from Campus Group, John Catton Glastonbury. White wing-collar dress shirt £29.95, paisley silk bowtie £9.75, silver ball cufflinks £11.95, all from Hilditch & Key, 73 and 37 Jermy Street, SW1. Silk socks £8.95 Liberty. "Ballur" corner unit from Habitat.
- 11 Mustard wool chunky sweater £42, check scarf £5.50, rubber studded gloves £5. All from Paul Smith, 43/44 Floral Street WC2, Nottingham. Irish tweed hat £19.50 from Grey Flannel, 7 Chiltern Street, W1. Tweed trousers £29.95 Sprint, Long Acre.



FARAH
SLACKS & LEISURE WEAR

styled to fit you naturally

Knowing your own image is the secret of style and the essence of present giving. Buying for men is traditionally supposed to be difficult because there are fewer first class male gifts. But the conventional ideas - scarves, socks, slippers and sweaters - can have an edge of style. For men to buy themselves, or receive from their loved-ones, here are a sackful of ideas for Christmas.

ACTION MAN
Whites Xmas... white jennis belt with Gucci motif £8 from Gucci, 27 Old Bond Street, W1. In the bag... heavy duty Barbour bags £19.50 from the Country Shop at Austin Reed, Regent Street and branches. Ski-man... Carrera's wrap round goggles £23, curved black and white sports sunglasses by Porsche Design £40, both from For Eyes, 21 James Street, Covent Garden WC2, 16 High Holborn WC1, 97a Golders Green Road NW11. Feeling ropey... freshen up with Goya's soap on a rope (£2.35). Body Splash (£2.30) or the Cedar Wood After Shave Atomiser (£1.99). Wolf in sheep's clothing... stone grey ribbed Jacob's wool sweater £33.95 from Moss Bros, Covent Garden and branches. Order of the bath... Givenchy's blue and white cotton quilted wrap towelling lined £85 from Harrods. Low dives... Porsche's Ocean watch in iridescent titanium, waterproof up to 2,000 metres. Price £1,200 from the Porsche shop at Harvey Nichols.

CHIC
Cutting a dash... Hilditch and Key's cut-away collars on neat flag-bright red, white and blue striped shirts, from £29.95. Extra cover... marbelized handle on the Aramis umbrella fire with two or more fragrance purchases. From Aramis purchases at Debenhams, Harrods, Selfridges. Bow-people... traditional foulard silk bow tie £25.50 and matching handkerchief, both from Alfred Dunhill Ltd, 30 Duke Street, Saint James's. Getting ahead with a hat... tribbles and toppers, bowlers and mobster-hats, all from Moss Bros, Covent Garden.

Waist not waist not... burgundy lizard skin belt, also black, £65 from Alfred Dunhill, 30 Duke Street, Saint James's. Three piece sweet... elegant brocade waistcoats for day or evening suits £200 in fabrics to order from Tommy Nutter 18/19 Savile Row, W1. Reactionary chic... embroidered waistcoats, silk cravates, tapestry braces, top hats, tie pins and studs. All from stands at Antiquarius, 135-141 King's Road SW3.

MODERNIST
Tough as steel... stainless brushed finish and gold plated bezel tie bar £25. Cufflinks £35. Millennium bold faced watch £325, all from Alfred Dunhill, 30 Duke Street, Saint James's. Earning your stripes... Van Heusen's 100 per cent cotton shirts with red, grey and white stripes and white collar, £23.75 from major stores. Geometrics... alpaca mix geometric sweater with Alcantara trim £59 Selfridges. Skin deep... elegant silver and grey packaged Clinique's Skin Supplies for Men fitness and grooming products. From Harrods and major stores. Square face... Gucci's name round the face of a gold plated quartz watch with white, black or champagne face £195 from 27-Old Bond Street W1. Sock it to him... cotton and lisle fancy socks in a rainbow of colours £3.50 from Austin Reed, Regent Street and branches. Warm hands, warm heart... Armani's cashmere and leather gloves £30 from Browns, 27 South Molton Street.

COOL
Vintage brew... silver and black thirties cuff-links £5 to

£10 from Paul Smith, 43/44 Floral Street, 23 Avery Row W1 and 10 Byard Lane, Nottingham. New geometry... Pringle's bright graphic patterned sweaters £39 from the sports department at Austin Reed. Spots before the thighs... Crolla's pink and white spotted boxer shorts, from a selection of fancy pants £11 from Crolla, 35 Dover Street W1. Heart on your feet... hand-knitted socks scattered with hearts in fondant colours £12. Multi-patterned Missoni socks £15. Both from Browns, 27 South Molton Street. Close shave... Gillette's stylish stainless steel and black Contour razor £1.20. Paisley prints... silk and wool

scarves £16.95 and matching bow ties £6.50 by Comford. Armani silk turtl scarves £39.50. Both from Liberty. Hair-raising... Molton Brown's seaweed setting lotion £3.15 for 300ml from Molton Brown, 58 South Molton Street. Christmas stockings... red cotton socks with Xmas tree motif from a selection of fantasy socks, £11 from Crolla, 35 Dover Street W1. Boxing clever... Johnny Lamb's fantasy patterned boxer shorts, including dots, flowers and patchwork. £16 from Brown's Man's shop. Back to front... reversible

leather belts from £9.50, school boy stripes £4.95 from Jaeger. Poster paint bright... fringed lambswool scarf in 42 colours from fuschia to cobalt £19.50 from Harrods. Night stripes... Liberty print fine striped tana lawn night shirt £33 from Liberty, Regent Street W1. Rainbow-coloured... watches in red, blue, yellow and black £18.95 from Austin Reed, Regent Street and branches. Holly and ivy... canvas and pigskin red and green striped belt £45 from Gucci, 27 Old Bond Street W1. Little black dressing... Anne Tyrrell's evening collection in Esarods After Six department is produced by Ronald Joyce.

SHOPPERS' DIARY

Anne Beckwith-Smith, Lady in Waiting to the Princess of Wales, was reconnoitering the jewels at the opening of Hennell's new Bond Street shop on Tuesday.

The glamorous young Duke of Westminster unveiled the stunning collection of jewels which included sapphires as big as the Ritz - a copy of a flower diamond necklace made by Hennell's for actress Joan Crawford in the 1930s.

More discreet (and definitely more regal) was a diamond necklace that once belonged to Empress Eugénie and a drop pearl and diamond Russian tiara that attracted the enthusiasm of several of the guests including Lord Lichfield's wife Leonora and Anthony Andrews.

Over in Fulham on Monday, I bumped into Princess Michael of Kent doing her Christmas shopping for another kind of jewelry at Rutler and Wilson. The princess in mauve tweed trimmed with lilac fur, was drawn to earrings of the same colour - part of the delicious collection of paste that twinkles in this Aladdin's cave of fashion jewelry.

We're not allowed to tell you anything about Winston cigarettes, so here's a couple of stocking fillers.

LOW TO MIDDLE TAR As defined by H.M. Government
DANGER: Government Health WARNING:
CIGARETTES CAN SERIOUSLY DAMAGE YOUR HEALTH

We wish to extend the Greetings of the Season.

Gifts that will be worn and cherished.

The Polo Ralph Lauren Shop
143 New Bond Street, London W1
(01) 629-3249

THE TIMES DIARY

For David read David

David Steel has not been able to find the time to address the Liberal candidates' annual conference at Trinity College, Oxford next month.

Sacrifice for art

The Royal College of Art receives more than £30,000 a year from charging applicants an "administration fee" of £20 each to apply for post-graduate courses.

Off-target

A plan to twin with a local authority in Russia or another Eastern bloc country has been approved by Kirkcaldy Council, West Yorkshire.

BARRY FANTONI



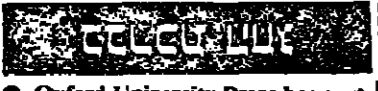
"I'm collecting for unwanted cabbage Patch dolls this Christmas."

Not to be missed

Eileen Fairweather, this year's winner of the Catherine Pakizman Award, intends to break with tradition when she receives her prize at luncheon today.

Mullin it over

In the readers' letters column of the current issue of Tribune, the editor, Chris Mullin, is angrily attacked for refusing to publish an article by Sarah Roelofs on a meeting between Sinn Fein and Labour Party women.



● Oxford University Press has sent out a Christmas card with greetings in 22 languages. The Hebrew greeting is upside down.

One-nil

Throughout his 13-year career in the House of Commons, Eric Moonman, the former Labour MP for Basildon, never saw his name on an early day motion. Now that he is chairman of Islington health authority, the situation has changed.

The bombers' blueprint

George Brock looks at the real aims behind the campaign being waged by the Provisional IRA



The day after... the car bomb at Harrods

It has been a motif of Provisional IRA propaganda for several years now that "one bomb in London is worth 50 in Belfast" and the lethal blast at Harrods has brought forth yet again the grim list of deaths on this side of the Irish Sea over the past 11 years.

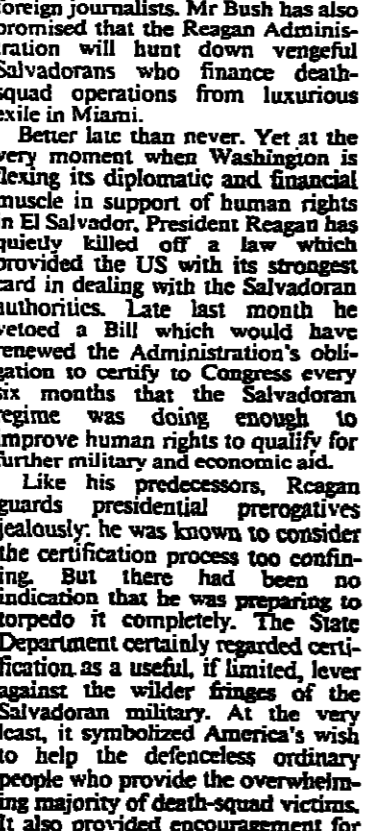
There are several tactical strands within the overall strategy. The Provisionals have established, and maintain, an effective veto on constructive political movement inside the province.

Philip Jacobson on Washington's growing difficulties in El Salvador

Will the death squads kill off US policy?

The message was considered so important in Washington that Vice-President George Bush was sent to El Salvador to deliver it in person.

Victim of a death squad...



much-feared Major José Ricardo Pozo of the Treasury Police, the intelligence chief of the national police, a provincial army commander.

On June 12, 1981 - the same day that the secretary of state, Mr Alexander Haig, arrived in Peking - Deaver ushered Pao into the Oval Office to meet President Reagan.

Roger Scruton

Laying down the law

The English legal system is rooted in common law, and decisions made by judges have led to an accumulated weight of such legislation which Parliament could overthrow only by destroying the basis of its own legislative competence.

William Safire

Man with a cargo of influence

Washington This is the story of connexion. No hint of wrongdoing intended, just a demonstration of how a billionaire capitalist shipowner - who is also an adviser to the government of China - can gain frequent access to, and perhaps influence, a total stranger who is elected president of the United States.

حکذا من الأصل



P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

PRICE FOR THE JOB

A standard minimum wage, whether established by trade union agreement or official regulation, is a restrictive practice. Unless it is unenforced or ineffective through being set below the competitive market clearing rate, it results in the withholding of labour from that part of the economy which is subject to wage regulation. It denies jobs to those who seek employment in that sector, while reinforcing a contrived monopoly, or at least a scarcity of labour in it, to the advantage of those already holding jobs there.

At last the moral appears to be getting through to the Government. It started with Mr Lawson's recent paper to the NEDC, which, by indicating that growth in employment can be expected to predominate in the services, signalled an official end to the long-term obsession with the protection of manufacturing as the source of jobs and economic strength. That obsession held sway in the face of the secular trend in all developing economies away from manufacturing towards service industries and market service employment.

Yesterday the Department of Employment published a research paper which proclaimed - as though in surprise - that the chances of young people finding work are affected by the level of pay they receive compared to adults. It followed a discussion paper from the National Institute of Economic and Social Research published in August which put its finger more firmly on the sore point of youth employment and training by revealing that British apprentices earn roughly three times as much relative to adult workers as do apprentices in Germany and Switzerland (60 per cent of adult wages in Britain, 20 per cent in Germany and Switzerland).

That distortion, said the authors, stemmed primarily from market imperfections caused by paying wages in excess of their market clearing level. It arose from minimum wage and social security legislation, public sentiment about what young people should be paid (though how that affected the attitudes of wage bargainers was not clear) and the exercise of monopoly bargaining power on the part of trade unions.

Here we come back to the trade unions and Mr Leon Brittan's speech on the closed shop delivered last weekend. The headlines concentrated on his statement that the closed shop, if itself, however enforced, a flagrant and fundamental denial of individual liberties. That is certainly a sound position of principle. But there is an equally important and urgent economic reason for dismantling it, which he put clearly later on in his speech.

"It has killed existing jobs and prevented new ones from being created. Those who use the closed shop to impose their own price on their own labour do so at the expense of the profits needed for tomorrow's investment and tomorrow's jobs. And they do so, too, at the expense of all those who might otherwise be employed if the rigid wage structures and restrictive practices which such unions enforce did not apply. That is why there is nothing fraternal about the closed shop."

By November 1984, the trade unions will be required to submit their closed shop arrangements to a ballot among employees, with an 80 per cent minimum requirement. Under the Employment Act 1982 these ballots can be held earlier at the Secretary of State's discretion. The Government is said to be taking stock of that possibility. It should expedite the decision to advance the ballot to an earlier date.

Action on the wages councils should follow soon after, since in 1985 Britain will be able to denounce the ILO Convention which under a 10-year rule covers them. The Government has already recognized how these wages councils tend to price young people out of jobs and says that it is reviewing the matter. An early decision in 1985, should be followed by legislation.

The main legal privileges of the trade unions are derived from legislation in the late nineteenth century and early twentieth century when the conditions of the poor were the major topic of debate and it was widely held that the rich were somehow responsible for that condition. It was thought necessary to rectify the balance of power by extending the authority and immunity of collective action by workers in trade unions. By now it must be clear that the coercive and disruptive power of the closed shop, and the economic rigidities which ensue from it, have more than redressed that balance to the disadvantage of the unemployed and to the national economy as a whole.

In two other countries the effects and implications of wage regulation in adversely discriminating against people's employment opportunities have been clearly recognized for many years - the United States and South Africa. Their wage restrictions militate against black employment. How ironic it is, here in Britain, to listen to the arguments against rising unemployment particularly among the young and the blacks, without any recognition from those trade unionists who are loudest in their condemnation of unemployment at the bottom end of the scale that the unions themselves are the principal architects of a system of wage restriction which makes that unemployment worse.

It is surely quite remarkable how little so manifestly undermined United States' claims to the moral high ground in international affairs and, by association, the claims of its allies.

With what credibility can President Reagan or Mrs Thatcher now revile the IRA, the PLO, the Red Brigades or any other terrorist group and their alleged backers, like Libya? Western policy in the international field has indeed sunk to a low level.

My father was member of Parliament for Whitechapel and St Georges from 1931 to 1935. He constantly warned of the immediate and eventual effects of fascism, whether in its British or German or any other form. Certainly British Jewry fought Mosleyite fascism from its inception and whether or not they themselves were the immediate target.

A National Front leader once tackled me: "Why don't you Jews leave us alone?" he asked. "If you did, we wouldn't have to be antisemitic. We're busy enough dealing with the blacks!"

Plus ça change... Yours faithfully, GREVILLE JANNER, President, The Board of Deputies of British Jews, Woburn House, Upper Woburn Place, WC1, December 15.

From the President of The Board of Deputies of British Jews Sir, The allegation that Jewish attacks on Mosley were the cause of his antisemitism is like the suggestion that those who attack Satan are the cause of sin.

My father was member of Parliament for Whitechapel and St Georges from 1931 to 1935. He constantly warned of the immediate and eventual effects of fascism, whether in its British or German or any other form. Certainly British Jewry fought Mosleyite fascism from its inception and whether or not they themselves were the immediate target.

A National Front leader once tackled me: "Why don't you Jews leave us alone?" he asked. "If you did, we wouldn't have to be antisemitic. We're busy enough dealing with the blacks!"

Plus ça change... Yours faithfully, GREVILLE JANNER, President, The Board of Deputies of British Jews, Woburn House, Upper Woburn Place, WC1, December 15.

From the Chairman of Greenpeace International Sir, I refer to Woodrow Wyatt's review of Whales: A Celebration, edited by G. Gatenby (Books, December 8) in which he takes the opportunity to criticise the activities of Greenpeace to protect the great whales.

World that his optimistic assessment of the status of whales worldwide was true. Unfortunately, he seems to draw his conclusions from sources unknown to those who for years have been closely involved in the scientific study of cetaceans.

There are no reliable population estimates for the ten major species, nor is there any evidence, with the exception of one or two particular stocks, that whales are making any kind of recovery from depletions, much less a "strong" one. Sir Woodrow Wyatt's portrayal of the International Whaling Commission's record also suffers from inaccuracies. Under the jurisdiction of the commission we have seen population after population of whales, and even entire species such as the blue and humpback whales, hunted to near extinction.

Backing EEC with greater zest

From Mr Andrew Ross Sir, As a concerned patriot I find myself thoroughly dismayed by the Government's continuing bluster over the price Britain should be expected to pay in order to remain a leading member of the European Economic Community.

I understand, of course, that our national spirit, along with our industrial base, has decayed alarmingly in recent years, but it is surely pretty desperate when we cannot despite massive windfall revenues from North Sea oil, find a few hundred million pounds to stake our claim to a leading role in shaping the political future of Western Europe.

The continuing health of the EEC is no less important to British interests than the continuing health of Nato. If we have really lost faith in the EEC then we should, as a corollary, have doubts about the role of our forces in Germany. I suggest we back the EEC with more zest.

Yours, ANDREW ROSS, 182 Old Woking Road, Woking, Surrey, December 15.

From Mr Christopher Vajda Sir, Whatever one may think of the European Community, the European Community Budget rebates to Britain and Germany, one is treading on very dangerous ground in suggesting that, failing a solution by March, Britain should withhold part of its contribution to the Community Budget (as The Times leader of December 16 appears to be suggesting).

The legality of what the European Parliament has done can be tested before the European Court of Justice. It is, however, quite another matter unilaterally to withhold money that is lawfully due to the Community. There cannot be one law for her Majesty's Government and another law for the NGA.

Yours sincerely, CHRISTOPHER VAJDA, Avenue de Tervuren, 27, 1040 Brussels, Belgium, December 16.

US and terrorists

From Mr Melvyn Westlake Sir, It is surely quite remarkable how little so manifestly undermined United States' claims to the moral high ground in international affairs and, by association, the claims of its allies.

With what credibility can President Reagan or Mrs Thatcher now revile the IRA, the PLO, the Red Brigades or any other terrorist group and their alleged backers, like Libya? Western policy in the international field has indeed sunk to a low level.

My father was member of Parliament for Whitechapel and St Georges from 1931 to 1935. He constantly warned of the immediate and eventual effects of fascism, whether in its British or German or any other form. Certainly British Jewry fought Mosleyite fascism from its inception and whether or not they themselves were the immediate target.

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Plus ça change... Yours faithfully, GREVILLE JANNER, President, The Board of Deputies of British Jews, Woburn House, Upper Woburn Place, WC1, December 15.

Home front on the point of collapse?

From the Director of the Catholic Housing Aid Society Sir, Charles McKean's frightening comments on housing policy (Rescue, December 15) raise the spectre of a nation "with a growing rate of mortgage failures, houses collapsing in the streets, and with people on waiting lists having no prospect of being rehoused in their lifetime".

Unfortunately, he is correct. The present emphasis on home ownership is no solution for the millions who lack the money to buy. Nor do present policies provide less well-off some owners with adequate help with repair costs.

Cuts in public investment in housing have hit improvement grants for owner-occupiers as well as council-housing building. As the article points out, the owner-occupied sector now includes the majority of unfit houses and those in need of major repair. A significant increase in public investment will be needed to halt the deterioration of our housing stock in both the public and private sectors.

At the root of the problem, however, is the fact that owners are given no assistance with routine repairs, so that minor problems build up into major ones. Mortgage relief is both a patently unfair subsidy and an inefficient one. It gives inadequate help to those home buyers who need it, and unnecessary help to those who do not. It should be scrapped and replaced with a system of housing allowances which directs help where it is most needed.

If the Government seriously intend to avert the bleak scenario Charles McKean depicts they must recognize that fundamental changes in housing finance are needed.

Yours sincerely, ROBERT KAHN, Director, Catholic Housing Aid Society, 189a Old Brompton Road, SW5.

From the Secretary of the Housing Centre Trust Sir, Charles McKean's article in today's Times (December 15), "Why the home front is heading for collapse", is a welcome addition to the evidence for action which the Housing Centre Trust has been advocating over recent years and set out in our publication, Rescuing our Housing (1981).

The Housing Centre feels that repairs to the deteriorating housing stock, pre and post-1919, rank among the most pressing problems facing the country today and that sooner or later it will have to be acknowledged that the Government must spend our money (taxes) on rescuing as many as possible of the homes at risk.

In the majority of cases the occupiers' own incomes and savings are totally inadequate to meet the costs of repairs/replacements made necessary by the passage of time or poor initial workmanship or both.

There is no ready precedent to guide us. We have never before had to face the wearing out of assets on such a scale as this legacy from the housebuilding bulges of the nineteenth century and the two post-war periods of the twentieth.

More detailed research is needed. New thinking is required. We hope that Mr McKean's warning will spark a productive public debate.

Yours, MARJORIE S. CLEAVER, Secretary, Housing Centre Trust, 33 Alfred place, WC1.

Parliament should the member states agree. This Act was originally based on an Act giving home rule to the then Province of Ireland and was passed in 1914 and deferred, owing to the outbreak of World War I.

Lord O'Neill, one time Premier of Ireland, observed in his autobiography that only 25 per cent of this Act was put into effect by creating the Parliament of Stormont, which failed to give full civic rights to all Catholic citizens.

Broken marriages and child ties

From Dr Mary Lund Sir, I am writing in response to the Dean of Durham (December 6) who wanted information to confirm his intuition that two parents can contribute more than one to a child's development.

As he pointed out, there is indeed conflicting opinion and little fact about what benefits children when parents separate despite the numbers of children affected. However, two recently completed studies of children and divorce have begun to fill this gap in knowledge: one by Ann Mitchell at the Department of Social Administration, University of Edinburgh, and one by myself at the Child Care and Development Group, University of Cambridge.

Both studies showed children's wish to have a continuing relationship with both parents after marriage's end. There is no one universal, deleterious effect on children of their parents' separation. Rather it is the way parents resolve matters concerning the children after they separate that may help or hurt them.

If parents do not form some way of communicating which allows access without tension, or if one parent disappears completely from a child's life, then a child may suffer. Social problems at school and reduced academic performance can result. But if parents put their differences aside so they can communicate about the issues they have in common concerning the children, the children will thrive.

Parental cooperation, whether or not in marriage, is the key to children's healthy development. Surely, conciliation services for parents who are separating should be promoted to safeguard the wellbeing of the one child in five who now finds he will not grow up with both natural parents at home.

Sincerely, MARY LUND, University of Cambridge, Department of Paediatrics & Social and Political Sciences Committee, Child Care and Development Free School Lane, Cambridge.

From Mr Humphrey Buckler Sir, The news on your front page on December 14 that the cost of Trident would be increased by £1,375m due to the fall in the sterling-dollar exchange rate, is hardly surprising. What is surprising is that the article makes no reference to any measures by the Government to minimise the impact of changes in exchange rates.

Using your figures, sterling is now worth 60 per cent of its dollar value at the time the Trident deal was negotiated. Thus the British taxpayer will either get less defence for his money or funds will have to be found from other sources - eg. education, health, social welfare or rate support.

The rise in the value of sterling was the biggest commercial factor contributing to the Rolls-Royce crisis over RB211 contract. Rolls-Royce was bailed out by the Government and one would have hoped the lesson would have been learned.

A private exporter or importer having foreign exchange commitments will take every possible step to eliminate or reduce exchange risk. As taxpayers faced with this enormous bill we are entitled to know what steps the Government took to mitigate the exchange risk inherent in the Trident programme.

Yours faithfully, HUMPHREY BUCKLER, 46 Blackheath Park, SE3.

From the General Secretary of the Secondary Heads Association Sir, Your report of social trends in today's issue (December 9) shows very significant increases between 1970 and 1982 in the percentage of school pupils gaining O level passes, particularly in academically rigorous subjects, in numbers staying on to the sixth form, and in numbers going on to further and higher education.

The other significant increase during that time, of course, is in the percentage of those pupils attending comprehensive schools. Perhaps your columnists and leader writers could turn their attention to that.

Yours faithfully, T. P. SNAPE, General Secretary, The Secondary Heads Association, 29 Gordon Square, WC1.

Missing the bus From Mr William Barrett Sir, May I suggest that your piece on vanishing buses (December 9) is altogether too gloomy? I realize that the comment of the general manager of Eastern Counties buses is special pleading, but why does he dismiss private operators and community buses as a forlorn hope?

Both systems are working in this part of Suffolk, where the population is probably as small and as scattered as around Swanton Morley. Is it perhaps possible that we can offer advice to our northern neighbours?

Yours faithfully, WILLIAM BARRETT, Pip's Peace, Stowmarket, Suffolk, December 12.

Uneminent and trivial From Mr Ben Weinreb Sir, But Mr Kingsley Amis's minicab driver (December 17) might possibly prefer to chat to the uneminent Mr Philip Oakes. I know I would.

Yours faithfully, BEN WEINREB, 16 Millfield Lane, N6, December 17.

Status of whales

From the Chairman of Greenpeace International Sir, I refer to Woodrow Wyatt's review of Whales: A Celebration, edited by G. Gatenby (Books, December 8) in which he takes the opportunity to criticise the activities of Greenpeace to protect the great whales.

World that his optimistic assessment of the status of whales worldwide was true. Unfortunately, he seems to draw his conclusions from sources unknown to those who for years have been closely involved in the scientific study of cetaceans.

There are no reliable population estimates for the ten major species, nor is there any evidence, with the exception of one or two particular stocks, that whales are making any kind of recovery from depletions, much less a "strong" one. Sir Woodrow Wyatt's portrayal of the International Whaling Commission's record also suffers from inaccuracies. Under the jurisdiction of the commission we have seen population after population of whales, and even entire species such as the blue and humpback whales, hunted to near extinction.

Protection by the commission has often come only after the fact. In the case of the blue whale, for example, IWC did not provide protection until the fishery had collapsed totally.

We must again question Sir Woodrow Wyatt's knowledge of cetacean matters when he speaks of the "white Bowhead whale". There is no such thing; bowheads are black. The reviewer has undoubtedly confused the white whale (or beluga) hunt, which is not regulated by the IWC, with the Bowhead hunt.

The regulations of tuna fishing in North America to which Sir Woodrow Wyatt refers have been weakened by well-financed industry initiatives. Tuna fishermen are free to kill even fully protected species of dolphins since these are not counted against their quota. Last year they reported a kill of more than the 26,500 allowed by quotas.

Lastly, I would like to point out that Greenpeace actions have never been of any danger to anyone except Greenpeace members and then only when whalers fire harpoons over them.

Yours faithfully, D. McTAGGART, Chairman, Greenpeace International, Temple House, 25-26 High Street, Lewes, East Sussex, December 8.

European elections

From Mr A. G. Mollett Sir, The British electorate will be asked to vote on June 14 next year in the European Parliament elections. How many will actually exercise their right to determine who represents them in Strasbourg cannot be forecast, but I believe both the delay in setting the constituency boundaries and the continuation of the "first past the post" voting system for these elections will result in a desirous turnout.

The three boundary commissions - for England, Wales and Scotland - expect to publish their initial reports in mid-January for public reaction before submitting proposals to the Home Secretary by April. With the possibility of legal appeals there will continue to be uncertainty as to whether new boundaries will be fixed in time for the elections.

Political parties and voters will thus not know what the constituencies are until the actual election campaign, leaving little time for candidates to put across policies and to organise effective campaigns in the redrawn or maintained Euro-constituencies.

The delay in setting the boundaries is, however, a minor problem compared with the distorted results which will almost certainly result from the present Government's insistence on maintaining the "first past the post" electoral system in 78 out of the 81 seats allocated to Britain.

If June's general election vote were to be repeated in next year's European election it would provide the Conservatives with 55 seats, Labour 22 and the Alliance one. The Conservatives, with 42 per cent of the vote, would obtain 71 per cent of the seats, while the Alliance, with 26 per cent of the vote, would, on the most optimistic forecast, be left with one representative out of 78.

I suspect a great number of the electorate will decide in such circumstances that a so-called democratic election has no relevance to themselves.

The final irony is that the Northern Irish will be entitled to elect their three Euro-MPs by an electoral system, based on the single transferable vote, producing a fair result.

This system was introduced and agreed by Westminster to ensure that the political views of the minority population in Northern Ireland were represented; surely it is time that mainland Britain's electorate is also able to be fairly represented in its various political opinions.

Yours faithfully, ANTHONY G. MOLLETT, 18 Lion Gate Gardens, Richmond, Surrey, December 6.

THE ARTS

Galleries

Light deceptive mastery

Walter Osborne National Gallery of Ireland

Islamic Bookbindings/ Richard Doyle and his Family

Islamic Art and Design British Museum

Walter Osborne is not exactly a name to conjure with, even in Ireland, his native land. Or he has not been for upwards of 80 years, since his death in 1903, but the splendid show of his work at the National Gallery of Ireland in Dublin until December 31 (and then the Ulster Museum of Art in Belfast from January 20 to February 28) is bound to change his standing radically.

Osborne's complete eclipse is curious in many ways. He died young, at the age of 43, but he was not exactly unknown or even a very isolated figure. His formation as an artist was as international as that of any of his English contemporaries, such as Clausen, and he went through the same sort of evolution. Something of a juvenile prodigy, he won just about every prize in sight before leaving Dublin to train at the Antwerp Academy in its days of maximum influence, when he made contact with painters of the Hague School and a number of young English painters who were soon to be important. He was painting in Brittany, along the coast of Normandy, in 1883, along with a host of other painters, and there came under the influence, then almost unavoidable, of Bastien-Lepage in his studies of peasant life and his technique of painting them. He then lived and worked in England until 1892, and built his career very carefully, showing regularly at the Royal Academy, becoming early an associate of the Royal Hibernian Academy, and being in at the beginning of the New English Art Club.

Both shows are the kind of in-house activity that the museums do so well, offering a valuable opportunity to see some of the less familiar possessions, and occasionally illuminated by being placed in a new context. The untold riches of the major London museums constantly amaze, and seldom more so than in the Victoria and Albert's bookbinding show, which actually puts everything the museum has in that line on display, to coincide with a lavishly produced catalogue raisonné of the collection by Duncan Haldane, even at £30 heavily subsidized by that admirable organization the World of Islam Festival Trust.



Osborne's affecting view of the child in Feeding Chickens

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While at the Victoria and Albert, it will be well worth your while to walk through the newly assembled and arranged galleries devoted to British Art and Design 1900-1960: you will have plenty of time to do so, since this is a permanent display, and a source of amazement at the ingenuity of the museum's designers cramming a quest, if not a gallon, into a pint pot without creating too much confusion. But, if you are looking for truly reasonable

fare, the thing to do is to make your way to the Henry Cole Wing, where there is a wholly delightful exhibition devoted to Richard Doyle and his Family (until February 26). No artist, not even I think Arthur Rackham, has been so completely at home with fairies, elves, sprites and all their kind and kin. Though Dicky Doyle himself did many other things - political cartoons, comic books about the adventures of three accident-prone bachelors abroad and so on - his happy and unquestioning knowledge of fairyland has been what most recommends him to posterity. And, if you think it is easy to define and make convincing the proportions of a fairy queen or a malignant troll, look carefully at these unquestionably accurate records and think again. It also emerges that Dicky was just one of a whole clan of fairy-fanciers, including (though not ending with) his nephew Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, whose strange credulity about the notorious Cottingley fairy photographs makes an odd footnote to the show. Clearly, as long as there are Doyles about, Tinkerbell will never die.

Television A real mystery

A Talent for Murder (BBC2) was clearly designed as a "vehicle" for Laurence Olivier and Angela Lansbury, although they could hardly have expected that they would be forced to get out and push it. It was an effort for everyone concerned, but especially for those of us who watched until the end: it was a "mystery" story, although the only real mystery was why it was televised in the first place.

Angela Lansbury was not so much made-up as embalmed - but since she was playing the part of a lady thriller-writer, the contemporary equivalent of the Wise Virgin, that was perhaps just as well. Lord Olivier had decided to use his high, quavering voice and on the many occasions when he exclaimed "My dearest!" sounded as if he were standing at the Wailing Wall. Sometimes actors seem to believe that they can rise above a bad or nonsensical play by being grand or excessively theatrical - it is called being an "old trooper" - but this ploy does not work on television, where even the most talented performers can be reduced to the sum of their mannerisms.

Peter Ackroyd

Rock Optimistic finale

Simple Minds Lyceum

Despite their long period of recording inactivity Glasgow's Simple Minds have ended their year with a flourish, a string of sold-out houses and the current hit single "Waterfront" paying tribute to the loyalty of a committed audience while also confirming the band's status as Scotland's leading group.

into a carefully constructed web of emotional textures that move from the stirring "Glittering Prize" and "Up On the Catwalk" to the more introspective pieces like "King is White and in the Crowd". Behind Kerr, Simple Minds display a rich array of instrumental colour. The synths and electric keyboards of Michael MacNeil are probably the band's secret weapon and the key to their sound. He manages to infuse a constant stream of warm textures that allow the music to develop a sense of space.

Max Bell

Opera in America The first ladies

The second half of the autumn season in San Francisco was distinguished by a parade of prima donnas, which included some notable "firsts": Mariilyn Horne's first Dalila and Mirella Freni's first (Puccini) Manon; plus Montserrat Caballé's first American Gisconda, Katia Ricciarelli's first American Violetta, and Régine Crespin's first Grande Duchesse de Gérolstein on these shores.

Violetta in this country with the same male leads (Alberto Cupido and Leo Nucci) she had in the Paris Traviata last year. Her vocal tone is still very sure and very sweet; softer, more long-breathed arias were elegantly and movingly sung. But she seems to lack the easy agility and gusto necessary for the gay courtship of Act I, performed in a very old-fashioned way, and persisted in slowing the pace of the music each time she took it over. Richard Bradshaw did a very unobtrusive job of conducting.



and her meticulous musicianship. Régine Crespin's La Grande Duchesse de Gérolstein is hardly "new" (after 163 performances) in this production alone, it seems hers as much as Offenbach's. This faultless French production (originally staged for Toulouse) was a model of how to do Offenbach - with taste, grace and panache. Mme Crespin, playing a sort of pantomime version of her Marcelline, is the only "superstar" soprano I have seen who has totally mastered the style and wit of good opera; a minefield into which others have ventured to such joyless effect. She, and everyone, and everything else involved, made

Ricciarelli's Violetta: sure and sweet

A splendid midseason surprise was the revival of Ponchielli's La Gioconda, a production so aggressively opulent and busy it became a US television hit (with Luciano Pavarotti) in 1979. Montserrat Caballé sang with phenomenal quality and intelligence. The great Spanish diva has come to seem primarily the stalwart guardian of a priceless, fragile jewel of a voice: one listens, spellbound, for each silver syllable or omnipotent blast - and looks to others for acting. Mariana Panouna of Bulgaria sang Laura as a Torandot-style ice-princess, in a strange, steely-throated warbling tone I admired for its clarity and control.

David Littlejohn

Tristan und Isolde Teatro Comunale, Bologna

It ended, as it had begun, with Wagner seated at the piano and the Wesendoncks in appreciative attendance - a domestic drama that served as the worldly background to the dreams and ideals in Tristan und Isolde. Such is the framework for Yuri Lyubimov's first undertaking since directing his adaptation of Crime and Punishment in London three months ago, and his last before he returns to Moscow to face Soviet officialdom over the future of his beloved and threatened Taganka Theatre.

Opera in Italy

through which the two worlds interact. The emotional impact of events is not depicted in the polite and carefully spotlighted expressions of the main protagonists, but in a stunning series of lighting collages. His use of masked figures is less successful. But their mirrored faces in Act III do afford a compelling reflection of Tristan's psychological pain, and Lyubimov's coup de grace is to use two of the masks to depict the lovers' idealized reunion at the end of the Liebestod - giving the three principal singers time to resume their positions around the Wesendonck piano for the first curtain call.

proach succeeds hugely. The charge that he has abused the text does not stand close inspection, but he does appear guilty of exaggerating the influence of Mathilde and the whole Wesendonck episode as an inspiration for Tristan. Some Wagnerites will be disturbed by the importance accorded to Marke, and will find little or no illumination of the night-day axis in Act II. The production's only serious weakness lay in the pit, where the playing lacked body and bite, thereby sabotaging the orchestra's role as a principal protagonist. Zoltan Pesko gestaculated his way through the score with more physical energy

than musical understanding, but he did keep well in touch with the stage and could boast the dubious virtue of allowing every word to be heard clearly. The Teatro Comunale, which is technically and acoustically better equipped for Wagner than most Italian provincial theatres, has imported most of the cast from West Germany. Wolfgang Neumann and Dagmar Trabert filled the title roles with tolerable accuracy but little beauty. Matthias Hölle made an outstanding Marke, and Livia Budai's Brangäne, for which her weighty dark voice is strikingly well-suited, also deserves a wide hearing.

Andrew Clark

ECO/Cleobury Queen Elizabeth Hall

Those who avoid imitations and resolutely seek out the real thing among the myriad of Christmas concerts will surely have ended up at Sunday night's Elizabeth Hall concert, which brought the Choir of King's College, Cambridge, to London. They sang not only carols but Mozart's "Coronation" Mass, which they are recording, with a Handel Alleluia thrown in for good measure: an exhausting programme which came in the midst of preparations for the broadcast of their famous Christmas service of lessons and carols.

it was hard to efface the memories of Rafael Kubelik's ample warmth in this work a few months ago. The soloists were good, though the fine soprano, Patrizia Kwella, sounded more strained than usual. The Director of Music at King's is now Stephen Cleobury; while his brother Nicholas has thrust himself into the hurly-burly of the London new-music scene, Stephen Cleobury parades of the deep, deep peace of collegiate life. Their conducting styles have an element of common: but I longed for a touch of the brother's energy in Stephen Cleobury's shapely gestures. Those gestures were more attuned, of course, to directing the choir than the orchestra, and in a group of unaccompanied twentieth-century carols the choir shone with most of its usual fastidious precision. There was more exuberance in the Alleluia chorus which was tacked on to the end of Handel's Organ Concerto Op 4 No 4; otherwise a very slow, careful account in which the admirable David Briggs displayed just those qualities of delicate touch and volent crispness which Hawkins said Handel's playing transcended.

Songmakers' Almanac Wigmore Hall

Vienna. Graham Johnson has shrewdly suggested in his latest programme notes, was Brahms's New York: an adopted land near enough yet far enough away, where words and music had lighter air to breathe and friendship and anonymity weighed in an easy balance. But his ideals and his two "angels of judgment", Clara Schumann and Elisabeth von Herzogenberg, remained in Germany. The Songmakers on Sunday carried the songs and letters back and forth over the border in "A Viennese Requiem" - a song portrait of Brahms in the last period of his composing life. With Anna Murray as the voice of Clara, Felicity Lott as Elisabeth, Richard Jackson as Brahms himself and Graham Johnson narrating and accompanying, songs were as cunningly as ever matched to words by specific reference and gentle allusion.

Elisabet on its different versions. And then there was Schumann and his "An Anna", an early song, guarded and championed by Clara and Brahms and given a chill, rather literary performance by Mr Jackson. Better suited to his sharp-witted artistry was Wolf's "Abschied", taken here as a brilliantly vicious little comment on the Beckmesser-Hanslick-Brahms connexion. Allusion ranged from the tenderness of Miss Lott's "Wir wandelten", a rapt vocal illustration of Clara as melodic muse, to Mr Jackson's bluff "Kein Haus, keine Heimat", with visions of Brahms slurping sardines from a tin at breakfast. Carmen was his favourite opera, and there was Miss Murray, bringing in turn languid and gleaming exuberance to two of the "Zigeunerlieder". The 1890s approached, and with them the last songs prophetic of the death of the angels and of Brahms himself. Anna Murray, whose contributions alone would have made the evening worthwhile, gave minutely expressive readings of "Immer leiser" and "O Tod, wie bitter bist du". Part two of the Viennese Requiem turns to Alma Mahler, wife of Brahms's "king of insurgents", as the Almanac return on January 18.

Conducting and stage direction (Andrew Meltzer and Lofit Mansouri) held a fine cast together well, and the Dance of the Hours was of classical quality - the vastly improved opera ballet, in fact, was one of the most important steps forward in Mr McEwen's second complete San Francisco season.

Hilary Finch

"Cancer? Are you sure?" "How are we going to make ends meet?" "Is Daddy coming home?"

Macmillan Nurses face questions like these every day. They have to, because they care for cancer patients and their families. As you can imagine, it takes more than an exceptional nurse to make a Macmillan Nurse. It takes an exceptional human being. The other thing it takes, is money. When you give money to Cancer Relief, your money pays for Macmillan Nurses to look after patients in their homes, in Macmillan Homes and in Hospices. Your money allows us to give nurses and medical students training in advanced pain control. And it provides for special grants for families who are suddenly in desperate need. Please. Send us a cheque made payable to Cancer Relief right now, before you forget. Or telephone your gift by dialling 01-200-0-200 and quoting your Access or Visa card number. Thank you.

Macmillan Cancer Relief fund National Society for Cancer Relief, Room 3 30 Dorset Square, London NW166QL Registered Charity No. 241077.

Fraser denies demerger

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Dec 12. Dealings end, Dec 29. Contango Day, Dec 30. Settlement Day, Jan 9.

In a firm mood with the FT index closing up 2.8 at 762.1, but turnover remained low. Much of the index's firmness was attributable to Bowater, the shares of New York Market pundits believe the company may be a bid candidate.

Distillers was another cheerful market, rising 2p to 221p after news of a 5 per cent rise in the price of its export standard brands of scotch and an 8 per cent increase in its deluxe brands. However, the market, which is looking for pretax profits of £190m, says the increase does not affect the important US market and is unlikely to have much influence on fourth quarter earnings.

The offer for Charterhouse Group and RIT & Northern by the new holding company, Charterhouse J. Rothschild, has gone unconditional after receiving acceptance totalling 80.8 per cent. RIT rose 2p to 236p, while the RIT Warrants, mentioned

It now owns 422,000 shares, 21.07 per cent of the equity, and has secured a place on the board. Shares of Worthington rose 3p to 41p.

Drayton Consolidated Trust has been topping up its stake in Lincroft Kilgour Group, the cloth merchant and menswear manufacturer, and now owns 877,000 shares, or just under 20 per cent of the total. Lincroft held steady at 61p.

Border & Southern Stockholder Trust has reduced its stake in Munford & White, the electronic security group, which joined the Unlisted Security Market last year. Border & Southern has sold 417,000 shares at 215p and now owns only 300,000 shares, or 9.30 per cent of the total. Munford's shares were unchanged at 225p yesterday.

Promotion House has received acceptances totalling 17 million shares (58.95 per cent) for its 11-for-30 all-share bid for Berkeley & Hay Hill. The bid, worth 10 1/2p, will not be extended. Shares of Berkeley slipped 4p to 9p on the news.

The Boots fan club continues to grow. Yesterday the shares rose 1p to a high of 185p after a presentation of the company to Scottish institutions in Edinburgh by broker Rowe & Pitman. Dealers in London said the meeting appeared successful, with several large buying orders reported.

In The Times last week at 72p, added a further 3p to 87p. Michael Harland, a private investment company, has increased its holding in textile group AJ Worthington (Holdings) with the purchase of 205,000 for an undisclosed sum.

There is a little more to yesterday's announcement that Gilbert House Investments has bought Coverbrook, the investment property company, than meets the eye. Coverbrook is the property arm of C&A, the Dutch-owned stores group, which received 2.1 million Gilbert House shares in return for the sale. Further deals between the two companies cannot be ruled out. Gilbert House rose 2p to a new high of 26p.

pulp and paper group, where the price jumped 5p to a high of 254p. The group has just announced plans to sell a loss-making mill in Canada and has received big support for the

Shares of Akroyd & Smithers, London's largest quoted jobbing firm, held steady at 45p after shareholders passed a resolution at an extraordinary meeting to approve Mercury Securities purchase of 29.9 per cent of Akroyd's shares.

RECENT ISSUES table with columns for Issue Name, Price, and Change.

BRITISH FUNDS table with columns for Fund Name, Price, and Change.

COMMONWEALTH AND FOREIGN table with columns for Country/Region, Price, and Change.

LOCAL AUTHORITIES table with columns for Authority Name, Price, and Change.

DOLLAR STOCKS table with columns for Stock Name, Price, and Change.

BANKS AND DISCOUNTS table with columns for Bank Name, Price, and Change.

BREWERIES AND DISTILLERIES table with columns for Company Name, Price, and Change.

COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL table with columns for Company Name, Price, and Change.

House of Fraser, the department stores group, moved quickly yesterday to scotch rumours that it had finally reached agreement with its biggest shareholder, Lorrho, to demerge Harrods.

As the Knightsbridge store reopened for business after Saturday's bombing, the shares slipped 4p to 222p. Later they rallied to close at 230p, a gain on the day of 4p.

House of Fraser said there was no truth whatever in the speculation that it planned to rid itself of the biggest jewel in its crown. Attempts by Lorrho, which owns 30 per cent of Fraser, to push through a vote calling for the demerger of Harrods have all failed. Some analysts believe a demerger could be worth up to 200p a share to Fraser.

The M&G Group, one of the city's biggest financial institutions, also demerged yesterday that it was planning to sell its 17 million Fraser shares. Dealers reported heavy demand for the shares yesterday and renewed call option business. The rest of the equity market began the run-up to Christmas

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In a firm mood with the FT index closing up 2.8 at 762.1, but turnover remained low. Much of the index's firmness was attributable to Bowater, the shares of New York Market pundits believe the company may be a bid candidate.

Distillers was another cheerful market, rising 2p to 221p after news of a 5 per cent rise in the price of its export standard brands of scotch and an 8 per cent increase in its deluxe brands. However, the market, which is looking for pretax profits of £190m, says the increase does not affect the important US market and is unlikely to have much influence on fourth quarter earnings.

High Low Company Price Chgs Pence % P/E table with multiple columns for company data.

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THE TIMES 1000 1983/84. The World's Top Companies. Full statistical details and analysis for Europe, USA, Japan, Hong Kong, Australia, Canada, Singapore, etc.

Table of company shares with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, Chgs, Pence, % P/E.

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Sterling: Spot and Forward table with columns for Market rates, 1 month, 3 months, 6 months.

Money Market Rates table with columns for Clearing, Discount, Week, 1 month, 3 months, 6 months.

Other Markets table with columns for Market Name, Rate, Change.

Dollar Spot Rates table with columns for Country, Rate, Change.

Euro \$ Deposits table with columns for Term, Rate, Change.

Gold table with columns for Price, Change.

General look. Pegi. \$300m Qatar claim for arbitration. NEWS IN BRIEF. Includes various news snippets and advertisements.

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

General insurance groups look to their lifeline

The long drawn out battle for control of Eagle Star between BAT Industries and Allianz Versicherungs was drawn out a little further by the Takeover Panel yesterday.

In a brief statement the panel indicated that there will be a full meeting of its members tomorrow to consider the procedure which should be adopted to deal with rival offers.

Mr John Hignett, director general of the panel, concentrated on two themes. As The Times reported yesterday the favoured option is to arrange a one-day auction, after which there would be no further bidding for a specified period.

Alternatively the two sides would be free to continue the bidding for a set period, say one week, beyond the present December 30 deadline.

Whatever the final decision the panel's delay in offering guidance to the companies involved and their shareholders is adding to the general confusion in the market where Eagle Star shares closed 12p higher yesterday at 731p.

The chances that Allianz will ultimately succeed appear to be improving. It does start with the enormous advantage of holding 29.9 per cent of Eagle Star's equity and the average price per share it would pay in making a winning bid is much more economic than the price BAT would pay for victory.

At another level, that of management, BAT would have nothing like the headache of Allianz. The German company's hope of justifying the acquisition of Eagle Star must rest in anything other than the long term on the efforts of the existing senior managers.

Of wider significance than Eagle Star's fate is the ripples it will cause in the British insurance pond, especially if Allianz carries the day.

Forgetting defensive mergers forged in fear, the boards of our leading composites might profitably look to coordinating some of their activities, especially in overseas markets where a combined clout would certainly ring more bells. I fear, however, that they are not used to anticipating events or trends; major initiatives would be taken only under strong provocation from outside.

There is however, a greater disposition now to consider the value of insurance companies in relation to the market prices of their shares. It is not conceivable that an insurance company would fall to a bidder at less than its net asset value. Yet notwithstanding the vigorous bidding up of Eagle Star, other composite insurance shares are selling at yawning discounts to net worth.

Confirming observations I made in this column just over two weeks ago, one of the industry's leading figures has written pointing to the contrast between share prices depressed by earnings figures and the recent rapid rise in the companies' net worth - in some instances by over 50 per cent.

"This has been largely due", he points out, "to the combination of sound investment policies and rising stock market prices, but whatever the reason the total return to shareholders has been considerably greater than is apparent solely through the conventionally accepted criterion of the profit and loss account. Moreover, the substantial growth in life business such as has been seen this year is only very partially reflected in earnings in the year of acquisition and yet is a reliable source of future growth in earnings."

The value of the composite companies' expanding life insurance business is especially interesting. This business might not exist as far as the accounts presented to shareholders are concerned; yet if the astute analysts at brokers Wood, Mackenzie have done their sums correctly - and they usually do - the life business of the two leading general offices, Royal Insurance and Commercial Union, are currently worth £400m in balance sheet terms. CU shares on that basis are currently selling at a discount of 50 per cent to their net asset value.

Pegi's Sou in demand

Mr Chooi Mun Sou arrived in London this morning and will play a significant part in the future of Britain's beleaguered tyre company, Dunlop. Mr Sou is the legal adviser and director designate for the Malaysian Pegi group, holders of 27 per cent of the Dunlop equity. He is here to attend a Dunlop board meeting on Thursday and will be hotly pursued by Sarasin International Securities whose proposed £40m cash rescue bid for Dunlop is dependent on Pegi's support.

Dunlop had been expecting Pegi to hand over £55m in cash for the remaining 51 per cent of Dunlop Malaysian Industries, but that deal fell through last Friday. Pegi still owes Dunlop a further £43m for the Malaysian plantation interests. Although this deal was renegotiated in July a serious question mark now hangs over it.

Both sums would have had a favourable impact on Dunlop's debt mountain of £40m. That, and Dunlop's poor trading

record under the outgoing chairman, Sir Campbell Fraser, prompted the £82m agreement with Sumitomo of Japan. Dunlop not only sold its European tyre operations, it also sold its 40 per cent stake in Sumitomo.

Pegi's senior executives so far have responded coldly to Sarasin's proposals but the Malaysians may not be as strong a position as they make out. The Malaysian Foreign Investment Committee is unhappy about such large sums leaving a country which is pursuing a local majority ownership policy for foreign companies operating there.

Even with Sir Maurice Hodgson in Sir Campbell's seat there is some argument whether a man of his stature and experience can achieve much unless he cuts away large pieces of the remaining business with the intention of marrying or selling off a profitable residue. If that proved to be so, Pegi's interests might be worth far less than it thought.

Scott Lithgow to challenge £86m oil rig cancellation

From Our Correspondent, Glasgow

British Shipbuilders' Scott Lithgow is to challenge yesterday's long-awaited cancellation of an £86m oil rig for a consortium headed by Britoil.

The rig, owned by Lloyds Leasing but contracted to Ben Odeco and Britoil, was due for completion in April. But it is only 30 per cent complete and already more than 500 days behind schedule.

The Britoil statement said four offers to renegotiate the contract had been refused and the obvious implication is that Britoil is blaming British Shipbuilders for forcing the cancellation.

In a terse reply to the announcement a Scott Lithgow spokesman said: "We do not regard it as validly given under the contract. We intend to challenge it and are examining

the contractual position with our legal advisers."

He refused to discuss the basis for the challenge. But there will be no immediate lay-off among the yard's 4,500 workforces.

Mr Malcolm Ford, Britoil's joint managing director said: "We have done our best to cooperate with British Shipbuilders to help them overcome the problems. But given past delays and future uncertainties no client could expect to continue."

"We were prepared to contemplate a shipment of up to 300 days beyond the contracted delivery date. But our own assessment is that it would take much longer."

The cancellation has placed Scott Lithgow's future in the political arena.

Dr Norman Goodman, the Greenock and Port Glasgow Labour MP, is seeking an adjournment debate and a meeting with Mrs Thatcher. Mr Donald Dewar, the Shadow Scottish Secretary, said the Government should use its 48 per cent stake in Britoil to keep the order with the yard.

He was among Labour MPs who yesterday sought, but were refused, an emergency debate on the matter.

He demanded that a "responsible minister" - either Mr Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, or Mr George Younger, the Secretary of State for Scotland, reassure the House that ministers are acting and not merely standing by as no doubt concerned but ineffective spectators."

Shipstewards from the yard meet Mr Younger today, but it is believed he will refuse to intercede.

If no lifeline is forthcoming up to 1,800 men will be laid-off next month and the remaining jobs will be in jeopardy. However, this in conflict with the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions' policy which rules out any compulsory redundancies.

The yard has no further orders in its book and it is estimated that closure would raise the unemployment rate in the Inverclyde area of Strathclyde to between 36 and 40 per cent.

A six-week breathing space has been offered for reconsideration. Britoil says it will then turn, probably to the Far East for a replacement.

Bankers cut back on credit

Basle (Reuters) - Banks have further reduced their credit lines to most foreign borrowers in the first half of 1983, reflecting the international debt crisis and stagnation of world trade, the Bank for International Settlements said yesterday.

The average length of loans also stretched out further, mainly because the banks refused to renew some short-term credits falling due and because they had to reschedule the debts of countries unable to repay.

The twice-yearly BIS report on international debts showed that the amount of credit which the banks of leading non-Communist industrial nations had pledged to the rest of the world but had not yet paid out fell by \$2.8 billion during the first six months of the year.

Total new lending to these countries at \$10 billion was only one-third as much as in the first half of 1982, a trend already apparent from earlier BIS quarterly debt reviews.

Eastern Europe's net indebtedness to the banks fell by a huge \$11.9 billion, or a quarter, between the end of 1981 and mid-1983. But the BIS said the rate at which banks were cutting back their exposure to these countries was slowing.

Worst off was Poland, where a significant volume of maturing short-term loans was not extended during the first half of 1983. Its unused credit lines fell to 4.3 per cent of its outstanding debt, the worst ratio of all problem countries listed by the BIS.

Most new borrowing by Brazil, the Third World's largest debtor, was for periods longer than two years, reflecting the rescheduling of its debt.

Mexico, the first big country hit by the debt crisis in 1982, was able to borrow about \$1.3 billion on a short-term basis. Further signs of its recovery were increases in its unused credit lines and its deposits with the banks.

Venezuela and Chile, however, received fewer short-term loans and their undischarged credit also declined. Venezuela's unused credit was down to 4.8 per cent of its debt, the lowest ratio in Latin America.

Individual countries in Asia (excluding Japan), where unused credit lines rose by \$1.9 billion showed the relatively good credit standing of most nations in the region.

Indonesia, Malaysia, India, Taiwan, China, Mexico and Algeria were the only important borrowers outside the group of leading non-Communist nations to record marked increases in their undischarged credit facilities.

Top performer was China, whose unused loan pledges were nearly two-and-a-half times as large as the amount of money it had actually borrowed. Its deposits with foreign banks at mid-year also exceeded its debts by nearly \$10 billion.

The banks' undischarged credit commitments to the whole of the rest of the world represented only 16.6 per cent of total outstanding debt at mid-1983. This was nearly 12 percentage points lower than five years ago.



Successor story: Ronald Utiger (left) and Sir Brian Kellert

Utiger takes over at TI

By Andrew Cornelius

Mr Ronald Utiger, deputy chairman and managing director of TI group, will succeed Sir Brian Kellert as chairman of the company next May. The appointment will take effect at the group's annual meeting.

Mr Michael Boughton, deputy group managing director, will become deputy chairman and group managing director (operations).

Yesterday's decision on the chairmanship of TI follows months of speculation over a successor to Sir Brian, who has been with the engineering and motor components group for 28 years.

Mr Utiger was favourite for the job when TI indicated that it was looking for a new

chairman in autumn last year. However, the selection committee set up to find the successor hired headhunters to seek possible candidates from outside. The main argument against Mr Utiger was age - he is 57.

But by tradition the top job at TI goes to the most experienced and able member of the existing staff.

Over the past three years Sir Brian has masterminded a big rationalization of the group which has seen the workforce cut by half to 32,000 and a change in the mix of its businesses away from the heavy end of the engineering industry towards consumer products.

Airship plans cash call

By Michael Clark

Airship Industries is planning to ask shareholders to dig deeper into their pockets to support a big rights issue - the second in less than ten months.

The group, which hopes to introduce mass production airships in this country for the first time since the 1930s has joined forces with Mr Alan Bond, the businessman behind Australia's America's Cup victory, for the purpose of Mr Bond's company, Bond Corp Holdings (Australia), intends to underwrite the issue, details of which will be announced this week.

Shares of Airship Industries were suspended at 93p yesterday amid growing speculation that the group was running short of cash. In February it

announced a one-for-two rights issue at 140p to raise £5.6m this was quickly followed by a listing on the Unlisted Securities Market valuing the entire group at £17.5m.

Since then it has started a manufacturing subsidiary in Canada and received several firm orders, but losses have continued to grow. This led to speculation that another rights issue was on the way.

Airship's biggest shareholder is European Ferries with 15 per cent, followed by several institutions, including Royal Bank of Canada with 10 per cent. Commercial union with 6.05 per cent and Citicorp Capital Investors with 5.69 per cent.

WALL STREET

Stocks continue upward move

New York (AP-Dow Jones) - Stocks continued to edge upward with the big capitalization issues in the forefront in early trading yesterday.

The Dow Jones industrial average was up more than 5 points and the transportation index up more than 2.

Advancing issues led declines by a scant 690-to-680 margin. Trading was moderately active.

General Electric was up 1/4 at 55 1/2; General Motors up 1/2 at 74 1/2; Ford up 1/2 to 41 1/2; Exxon down 1/4 at 37 1/2; Eastman Kodak up 1/4 to 74 1/2; International Business Machines up 1 at 121 1/2; and Teletype up 1 1/2 to 163 1/2.

South Pacific was 39 unchanged; Honeywell 136 1/2, up 1 1/2; Barrages 48 1/2, down 1/2; Motorola 133 1/2, up 1 1/2; Abbott Laboratories 45 1/2, up 1 1/2.

Index hits record high

Selective support for blue chips and the various bid situations kept the equity market on the boil yesterday. The FT Index closed at a new high 2.8 up at 762.1. The previous record of 760.2 was set last week.

A rise of 9p in shares of Bowater to a new high of 254p was mainly responsible for the FT maintaining its momentum in these quiet conditions. Dealers are speculating that a bid from across the Atlantic may soon be on the way. Others to draw support included Grand Metropolitan 7p to 348p, while Distillers on 121p, Hawker Siddeley on 360p, TI Group on 464p and Vickers on 122p all added 2p apiece.

STOCK EXCHANGES

FT Index 762.1 up 2.8
FT All Shares 82.64 up 0.30
FT All Shares 453.5 up 1.04
Frankfurt 19,280
Datastream USM Leaders Index 95.08 up 0.15
New York Dow Jones Industrial Average (latest) 1247.97 up 5.80
Tokyo Nikkei Dow Jones Index 9,484.17 down 81.47
Hongkong Hang Seng Index 857.25 down 3.52
Amsterdam 155.4 unchanged
Seydel: AO Index 755.7 down 0.4
Frankfurt Commerzbank Index 1018.3 up 10.2
Brussels General Index 134.48 up 0.61
Zurich SKA General 307.30 up 0.40

CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE
Sterling \$1.4185 up 55pts
Index \$2.1 up 0.2
DM 3.8350 up 0.0050
FF 11.9950 up 0.01
Yen 335.25 up 1.75
Dollar Index 131.2 up 0.1
DM 2.7730 down 0.0047
NEW YORK LATEST
Sterling \$1.4170
Dollar DM 2.7720
INTERNATIONAL
ECU \$1.5768
SDR \$1.732184

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates:
Bank base rates 9
Finance houses base rate 9 1/2
Discount market loans week fixed 8 1/2
3 month interbank 9 1/4-9 1/2
Euro-currency rates:
3 month dollar 10 1/4-10 1/2
3 month DM 8 1/2-8 3/4
3 month FF 14-13 1/4
US rates:
Bank prime rate 11.00
Fed funds 9 1/2
Treasury long bond 100 1/2-100 3/4

GOLD

London fixed (per ounce) \$378.65 pm \$375 close \$374.75-\$375.50 (\$264-\$264.50)
New York (latest) \$375.50 Kruggerand (per coin) \$385-\$387.50 (\$272-\$273.00)
Sovereigns (new) \$98-\$99 (\$282-\$282.75)
*Excludes VAT

NEWS IN BRIEF

\$300m Qatar claim for arbitration

Arbitration proceedings begin in Paris early next year over a \$300m claim for damages against Shell and Whesoo, the process plant contracting group, by the Qatar Petroleum Producing Authority.

The claim follows a fire at the Umm Said natural gas liquids plant in Qatar in 1977. Shell was project manager and Whesoo a sub-contractor.

Whesoo, which reported increased pretax profits of £6.8m, against £6.5m, for the year to September 24, said there is nothing the company can do to provide against the outcome of the case. Even provision against 10 per cent of the claim would amount to the group's net worth.

Investors' Notebook, page 16

Sterling pulls back half a cent of losses

By Wayne Listott

The pound managed to recoup half a cent to close at 1.4185 against the dollar in quiet trading yesterday, having been a further half cent higher earlier in the day.

The Deutschmark and Swiss franc also regained part of last week's losses as European foreign exchange markets kept trading to a minimum.

But the dollar once more began surging ahead when New York entered business in the later afternoon.

The Bank of England was not thought to have intervened on any significant scale, but in Frankfurt the West German central bank, the Bundesbank, sold a further \$52.75m in an effort to bolster its flagging currency.

The dollar once again finished

£315m gas project will benefit steel industry

Go-ahead for North Sea pipeline

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

The Department of Energy has given approval for the development of an 180 mile-long gas pipeline from the North Sea Fulmar field operated by Shell and Esso.

The £315m pipeline would provide water for British Steel pipe manufacturing plant at Hartlepool. It is the eleventh big North Sea project to be approved this year.

The Department of Energy is also likely to give approval to development of the Beatrice "C" project before the end of next week, confirming previous government predictions that British industry will benefit by as much as £1 billion from a resurgence of activity in North Sea.

The approval for the Shell-Esso development of the Fulmar field confirms previous announcements by the two companies - they operate in the North Sea under a partnership agreement - that they will spend as much as £800m on the development of gas and oil fields by the end of the decade.

The Fulmar pipeline will involve construction of plant at the St Fergus base south of Aberdeen. It will also be used as the "spine" pipeline for the development of other North Sea gas fields which are now being considered by the oil companies.

The Clyde Field operated by Britoil will be connectable to the pipeline.

The pipeline has become viable because of taxation changes in the last Budget and by a hardening of natural gas prices paid to the oil companies.

The Minister of State for Energy, Mr Alick Buchanan-Smith, said yesterday: "I am keen to see companies themselves develop plans and invest in gas gathering. I hope that the British steel industry will take advantage of this project to



Alick Buchanan-Smith

build up its share in onshore construction work."

Shell and Esso had been told in advance that the Fulmar project would be given Government approval. Because of this British Steel has been able to avoid further lay-offs at its Hartlepool pipeworks and bring back men who had been laid-off.

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Norcros p.l.c. pre-tax profit up 11% Ken Roberts, Chairman, reports: Confidence in achieving the forecast pre-tax profit for the current year. Interim dividend up 10.6% to 2.3p. Financial summary for the half year to 30th September 1983

Table with 4 columns: Item, 1983-4 Half year, 1982-3 Half year, 1982-3 Full year. Rows include External sales, Profit before taxation, Earnings per ordinary share, Sales per employee.

Britannic Assurance in trust takeover

By Wayne Lintott

Britannic Assurance surprised the stock market yesterday when it announced an agreed all-share offer for the Midland Trust at a level equivalent of full net asset value, a hefty premium over the value ruling in the market.

The complicated bid basically values Midland at £8.9m against a pre-announcement value of £5.6m. Britannic already owns 33.3 per cent of Midland through its own holdings - it has been a shareholder since 1929 - and those of its pension funds. Coupled to irrevocable acceptances already received, Britannic has acceptances of 50.9 per cent.

Britannic is to offer enough of its own shares, down 8p at 450p, for each Midland, up 63p at 198p, to gain control when the bid goes unconditional. That means that Midland

shareholders will not know exactly how many Britannic shares they are to receive but on a rule-of-thumb calculation the offer works out at about one-for-two.

The precise terminology is Britannic Ordinary stock units - taken at 458p - equivalent to the value of 109.1 per cent of the net asset value per Midland Ordinary. The net asset value will be determined when the bid is declared unconditional to a precise formula.

A cash alternative is being provided through the adviser, S. G. Warburg, which will arrange to place any Britannic shares Midland shareholders accept for cash.

Midland is an authorized investment trust consisting entirely of shares quoted on the London stock exchange.

COMPANY NEWS IN BRIEF

Hampton Gold Mining Areas: Six months to June 30, 1983. Interim dividend 1p (same). Figures in £000s. Turnover 6,189 (4,675). Trading profit 322 (248). Investment income and interest received 654 (504). Royalties 528 (227). Exploration costs 6 (240). Profit on investments sale nil (3). Pre-tax profit 1,323 (784). Shares 200 down 3.

A Monk & Co: Half year to August 31, 1983. Interim dividend 2p (1.5p) to reduce disparity. Company anticipates total for the current year of not less than the 6.0p per share paid last year. Figures in £000. Turnover 52,000 (45,000). Pre-tax profit 1,137 (1,375). Tax 398 (344). Minorities nil (72). Shares 122 down 1.

Farral Bridges: Six months to June 6, 1983. Figures in £000s. Turnover 5,763 (3,460). Trading profit 378 (30 loss). Interest payable 12 (27). Pre-tax profit 366 (57 loss). Tax 97 (credit 73).

Whessoe remains an interesting investment opportunity after producing a £300,000 increase in pretax profits to £5.8m in the year to September 24.

This was on turnover of £111.3m against £98.1m last time. The orderbook at the process plant engineering group, at £300m is identical to last year's with the £75m of orders coming in compensating for the contracts completed during the year.

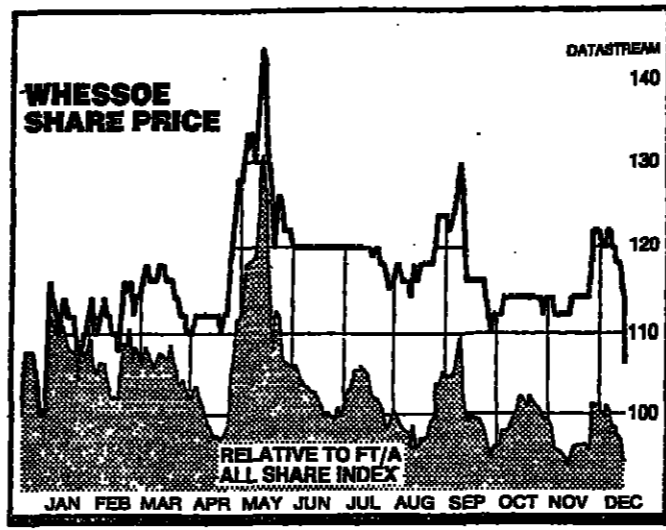
Good and bad news for shareholders is the near completion of the £130m orders for the heavy engineering work at the Heysham and Torness advanced gas-cooled reactor (AGR) nuclear power stations.

The contracts will be completed by next spring apart from some routine maintenance and service work. But because Whessoe prefers to defer taking profits from such work until it is completed the benefits will not show through until 1984 and 1985.

Whessoe's problem is filling the gap left by the completion of these orders. Mr William Smart, the chairman reports that the group is better placed than a year ago to pick up orders having completed a £5m restructuring at its Dartington plant which has seen numbers reduced from 800 to 300 and the installation of computer numerically controlled machinery increasing efficiency sixfold.

But the key to the group's success hinges upon its ability to translate the increase in order

Whessoe seeks to bridge AGR gap



inquiries into contracts. On the offshore side this is already beginning to show with work on a £13m contract to provide British Gas with a new module nearly completed and strong inquiries from other energy companies.

Elsewhere, the light engineering division has managed to maintain pretax profits at the £850,000 level, despite a grim marketplace, while the Australian and Canadian divisions also traded in the black.

The blackspot turned out to be the high pressure piping division at Alton where a £1.5m provision was necessary to cover the increasing costs of contracts which are taken on a five-year timespan.

Another shadow over the group is the threatened \$300m writ for damages from Qatar

INVESTORS' NOTEBOOK

Whessoe seeks to bridge AGR gap

Timber, which disclosed a return to profits.

Yesterday it was the turn of the timber importer May & Hassell, where the recovery gathered pace in the half-year to September 30, leading to a more than tenfold rise in pretax profits from £126,000 to £1.19m.

Mr Peter Atley, chairman, is therefore predicting that the half-year improvement will be more than maintained in the full-year results and the group's confidence is reflected in a 23 per cent rise in the interim dividend from 1.3p to 1.6p net.

During the first half, May & Hassell managed a small reduction in interest charges from £1.19m to £1m and the group has also benefited from rising timber prices and improved profit margins. Turnover in the six months rose by 20 per cent from £28.7m to £34.5m.

The group has now bought the remaining 50 per cent of Hallam Group, although in the first half it turned in another disappointing performance. May & Hassell's half-share of its losses amounted to £67,000 compared with £65,000 in the whole of 1982-1983.

However, the market was prepared to overlook this and the shares rose 15p to 113p in response to the results.

May & Hassell

The recovery in the timber cycle, together with internal steps the industry has taken to cut costs and improve performance, have worked wonders for the profitability of the sector.

Meyer International, the giant of the industry, reported much higher interim profits this month followed by Phoenix

Norcross

No sooner has the construction-to-packaging group Norcross shrugged off one negative label, the problem Hygena Kitchens, than its failure to win control of the builders' merchants UBM, has lumbered it with another.

The interim figures clearly illustrate why UBM is such an important component in expansion. The figures are slightly deceptive. Pretax profit is up from £12.5m to £13.9m on turnover marginally lower at £164.7m. The interim dividend is up from 2.08p to 2.3p.

Hygena, despite the losses accounted for around 29m of turnover so the expansion of the other areas has been significant. And the best performer was construction, where the upsurge of housebuilding is proving a worthwhile base on which Norcross can expand overseas.

At the final stage of the summer, international profits fell 25 per cent and now have more than halved to £2.3m. Ceramics were the other big profit earner but once again the business of the international division slid badly down.

Engineering held its profit level while print and packaging managed a marginal increase. Norcross obviously has an ability to make money in Britain but is doing a lot less well abroad. The shares at 143p were down 5p and yielding a healthy 7 per cent, but will continue to be overshadowed by the prospect of a renewed bid for UBM next year.

Commodities

LONDON COMMODITY PRICES
Mar 84 255.00-256.00
May 257.00-258.00
Jul 259.00-260.00
Sep 261.00-262.00
Nov 263.00-264.00
Dec 265.00-266.00

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE
Official turnover figures.
Prices in pounds per metric ton
Silver in penny per ounce
Rafferty Woff & Co. Ltd. report

STANDARD CATHODES
Cash 992.00-994.00
Three months 977.00-979.00
T/O 977.00-979.00

TIN HIGH-GRADE
Cash 271.00-272.00
Three months 262.00-263.00
T/O 262.00-263.00

MEAT AND LIVESTOCK COMMISSION
Average last week's price at representative markets on December 20

WHEAT
Mar 84 142.00
May 143.00
Jul 144.00
Sep 145.00
Nov 146.00
Dec 147.00

BARLEY
Mar 84 110.00
May 111.00
Jul 112.00
Sep 113.00
Nov 114.00
Dec 115.00

RYE
Mar 84 100.00
May 101.00
Jul 102.00
Sep 103.00
Nov 104.00
Dec 105.00

WHEAT FEEDS
Mar 84 120.00
May 121.00
Jul 122.00
Sep 123.00
Nov 124.00
Dec 125.00

WHEAT FEEDS
Mar 84 120.00
May 121.00
Jul 122.00
Sep 123.00
Nov 124.00
Dec 125.00

WHEAT FEEDS
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WHEAT FEEDS
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Nov 124.00
Dec 125.00

WHEAT FEEDS
Mar 84 120.00
May 121.00
Jul 122.00
Sep 123.00
Nov 124.00
Dec 125.00

This advertisement is issued in compliance with the requirements of the Council of The Stock Exchange. It does not constitute an invitation to any person to subscribe for or purchase any shares.

Arbuthnot Yen Bond Fund Limited

(A Company Incorporated with limited liability in Jersey on 24th February, 1983 under the provisions of The Companies (Jersey) Laws 1961 to 1968)

Share Capital

| | |
|---|---------------|
| Issued and fully paid as at 30th November, 1983 | Yen 20,000 |
| Authorised | Yen 7,980,000 |

in 100 Founders shares of 200 yen each in 7,980,000 unclassified shares of 1 yen each of which:

- 1,171,562 are in issue as Capital Participating Redeemable Preference Shares of 1 yen each
- 3,492,957 are in issue as Income Participating Redeemable Preference Shares of 1 yen each

8,000,000

Application has been made to the Council of The Stock Exchange for admission to the Official List of all the Participating Redeemable Preference Shares in issue and available to be issued. Particulars of the Company are available in the Extel Statistical Service and copies of such particulars may be obtained during business hours on any weekday (Saturdays and Public Holidays excepted) up to and including 6th January, 1984 from:-

Arbuthnot Securities Limited,
131 Finsbury Pavement,
Moorgate, London EC2A 1AY.

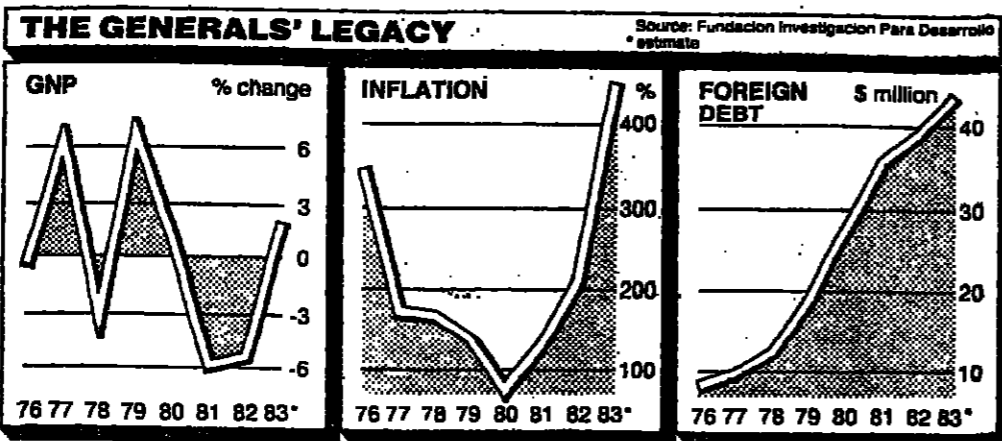
Cazenove & Co.,
12 Tokenhouse Yard,
London EC2R 7AN.

| 1983 | 1982 | 1981 | 1980 | 1979 | 1978 | 1977 | 1976 | 1975 | 1974 | 1973 | 1972 | 1971 | 1970 | 1969 | 1968 | 1967 | 1966 | 1965 | 1964 | 1963 | 1962 | 1961 | 1960 | 1959 | 1958 | 1957 | 1956 | 1955 | 1954 | 1953 | 1952 | 1951 | 1950 | 1949 | 1948 | 1947 | 1946 | 1945 | 1944 | 1943 | 1942 | 1941 | 1940 | 1939 | 1938 | 1937 | 1936 | 1935 | 1934 | 1933 | 1932 | 1931 | 1930 | 1929 | 1928 | 1927 | 1926 | 1925 | 1924 | 1923 | 1922 | 1921 | 1920 | 1919 | 1918 | 1917 | 1916 | 1915 | 1914 | 1913 | 1912 | 1911 | 1910 | 1909 | 1908 | 1907 | 1906 | 1905 | 1904 | 1903 | 1902 | 1901 | 1900 | 1899 | 1898 | 1897 | 1896 | 1895 | 1894 | 1893 | 1892 | 1891 | 1890 | 1889 | 1888 | 1887 | 1886 | 1885 | 1884 | 1883 | 1882 | 1881 | 1880 | 1879 | 1878 | 1877 | 1876 | 1875 | 1874 | 1873 | 1872 | 1871 | 1870 | 1869 | 1868 | 1867 | 1866 | 1865 | 1864 | 1863 | 1862 | 1861 | 1860 | 1859 | 1858 | 1857 | 1856 | 1855 | 1854 | 1853 | 1852 | 1851 | 1850 | 1849 | 1848 | 1847 | 1846 | 1845 | 1844 | 1843 | 1842 | 1841 | 1840 | 1839 | 1838 | 1837 | 1836 | 1835 | 1834 | 1833 | 1832 | 1831 | 1830 | 1829 | 1828 | 1827 | 1826 | 1825 | 1824 | 1823 | 1822 | 1821 | 1820 | 1819 | 1818 | 1817 | 1816 | 1815 | 1814 | 1813 | 1812 | 1811 | 1810 | 1809 | 1808 | 1807 | 1806 | 1805 | 1804 | 1803 | 1802 | 1801 | 1800 | 1799 | 1798 | 1797 | 1796 | 1795 | 1794 | 1793 | 1792 | 1791 | 1790 | 1789 | 1788 | 1787 | 1786 | 1785 | 1784 | 1783 | 1782 | 1781 | 1780 | 1779 | 1778 | 1777 | 1776 | 1775 | 1774 | 1773 | 1772 | 1771 | 1770 | 1769 | 1768 | 1767 | 1766 | 1765 | 1764 | 1763 | 1762 | 1761 | 1760 | 1759 | 1758 | 1757 | 1756 | 1755 | 1754 | 1753 | 1752 | 1751 | 1750 | 1749 | 1748 | 1747 | 1746 | 1745 | 1744 | 1743 | 1742 | 1741 | 1740 | 1739 | 1738 | 1737 | 1736 | 1735 | 1734 | 1733 | 1732 | 1731 | 1730 | 1729 | 1728 | 1727 | 1726 | 1725 | 1724 | 1723 | 1722 | 1721 | 1720 | 1719 | 1718 | 1717 | 1716 | 1715 | 1714 | 1713 | 1712 | 1711 | 1710 | 1709 | 1708 | 1707 | 1706 | 1705 | 1704 | 1703 | 1702 | 1701 | 1700 | 1699 | 1698 | 1697 | 1696 | 1695 | 1694 | 1693 | 1692 | 1691 | 1690 | 1689 | 1688 | 1687 | 1686 | 1685 | 1684 | 1683 | 1682 | 1681 | 1680 | 1679 | 1678 | 1677 | 1676 | 1675 | 1674 | 1673 | 1672 | 1671 | 1670 | 1669 | 1668 | 1667 | 1666 | 1665 | 1664 | 1663 | 1662 | 1661 | 1660 | 1659 | 1658 | 1657 | 1656 | 1655 | 1654 | 1653 | 1652 | 1651 | 1650 | 1649 | 1648 | 1647 | 1646 | 1645 | 1644 | 1643 | 1642 | 1641 | 1640 | 1639 | 1638 | 1637 | 1636 | 1635 | 1634 | 1633 | 1632 | 1631 | 1630 | 1629 | 1628 | 1627 | 1626 | 1625 | 1624 | 1623 | 1622 | 1621 | 1620 | 1619 | 1618 | 1617 | 1616 | 1615 | 1614 | 1613 | 1612 | 1611 | 1610 | 1609 | 1608 | 1607 | 1606 | 1605 | 1604 | 1603 | 1602 | 1601 | 1600 | 1599 | 1598 | 1597 | 1596 | 1595 | 1594 | 1593 | 1592 | 1591 | 1590 | 1589 | 1588 | 1587 | 1586 | 1585 | 1584 | 1583 | 1582 | 1581 | 1580 | 1579 | 1578 | 1577 | 1576 | 1575 | 1574 | 1573 | 1572 | 1571 | 1570 | 1569 | 1568 | 1567 | 1566 | 1565 | 1564 | 1563 | 1562 | 1561 | 1560 | 1559 | 1558 | 1557 | 1556 | 1555 | 1554 | 1553 | 1552 | 1551 | 1550 | 1549 | 1548 | 1547 | 1546 | 1545 | 1544 | 1543 | 1542 | 1541 | 1540 | 1539 | 1538 | 1537 | 1536 | 1535 | 1534 | 1533 | 1532 | 1531 | 1530 | 1529 | 1528 | 1527 | 1526 | 1525 | 1524 | 1523 | 1522 | 1521 | 1520 | 1519 | 1518 | 1517 | 1516 | 1515 | 1514 | 1513 | 1512 | 1511 | 1510 | 1509 | 1508 | 1507 | 1506 | 1505 | 1504 | 1503 | 1502 | 1501 | 1500 | 1499 | 1498 | 1497 | 1496 | 1495 | 1494 | 1493 | 1492 | 1491 | 1490 | 1489 | 1488 | 1487 | 1486 | 1485 | 1484 | 1483 | 1482 | 1481 | 1480 | 1479 | 1478 | 1477 | 1476 | 1475 | 1474 | 1473 | 1472 | 1471 | 1470 | 1469 | 1468 | 1467 | 1466 | 1465 | 1464 | 1463 | 1462 | 1461 | 1460 | 1459 | 1458 | 1457 | 1456 | 1455 | 1454 | 1453 | 1452 | 1451 | 1450 | 1449 | 1448 | 1447 | 1446 | 1445 | 1444 | 1443 | 1442 | 1441 | 1440 | 1439 | 1438 | 1437 | 1436 | 1435 | 1434 | 1433 | 1432 | 1431 | 1430 | 1429 | 1428 | 1427 | 1426 | 1425 | 1424 | 1423 | 1422 | 1421 | 1420 | 1419 | 1418 | 1417 | 1416 | 1415 | 1414 | 1413 | 1412 | 1411 | 1410 | 1409 | 1408 | 1407 | 1406 | 1405 | 1404 | 1403 | 1402 | 1401 | 1400 | 1399 | 1398 | 1397 | 1396 | 1395 | 1394 | 1393 | 1392 | 1391 | 1390 | 1389 | 1388 | 1387 | 1386 | 1385 | 1384 | 1383 | 1382 | 1381 | 1380 | 1379 | 1378 | 1377 | 1376 | 1375 | 1374 | 1373 | 1372 | 1371 | 1370 | 1369 | 1368 | 1367 | 1366 | 1365 | 1364 | 1363 | 1362 | 1361 | 1360 | 1359 | 1358 | 1357 | 1356 | 1355 | 1354 | 1353 | 1352 | 1351 | 1350 | 1349 | 1348 | 1347 | 1346 | 1345 | 1344 | 1343 | 1342 | 1341 | 1340 | 1339 | 1338 | 1337 | 1336 | 1335 | 1334 | 1333 | 1332 | 1331 | 1330 | 1329 | 1328 | 1327 | 1326 | 1325 | 1324 | 1323 | 1322 | 1321 | 1320 | 1319 | 1318 | 1317 | 1316 | 1315 | 1314 | 1313 | 1312 | 1311 | 1310 | 1309 | 1308 | 1307 | 1306 | 1305 | 1304 | 1303 | 1302 | 1301 | 1300 | 1299 | 1298 | 1297 | 1296 | 1295 | 1294 | 1293 | 1292 | 1291 | 1290 | 1289 | 1288 | 1287 | 1286 | 1285 | 1284 | 1283 | 1282 | 1281 | 1280 |
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Douglas Tweedale on the Herculean tasks facing the new government in Buenos Aires

At a press conference last week, someone asked Argentina's new economy minister, Señor Bernardo Grinspum, exactly how much money the country owed its foreign creditors.

How Alfonsín plans to bring Argentina back from the brink



For Argentines tired after more than seven years of repression and civil war, the news that the military rule, Señor Alfonsín's inauguration on December 10 was a moment of euphoria, celebrated by thousands who danced in the streets until dawn.

A new mood of optimism and confidence took hold of the country and it was reflected even in Buenos Aires' thriving currency black market, usually an accurate barometer of the financial climate.

The "parallel" exchange rate for the dollar has not risen at all since Señor Alfonsín was elected on October 30, while the spread between the official and black market rates has closed from nearly 100 per cent a few months ago to just 6 per cent now.

Last Friday the Argentine President went on television to give the first details of his economic plans. These include tax reforms, a national food programme and a pledge to make a sharp cut in the country's budget deficit.

Behind that confidence, however, is the reality of the crisis which Señor Alfonsín must solve if he is to fulfil his campaign promise to bring "100 years of peace and prosperity" to Argentina.

The foreign debt, Latin America's largest after Brazil and Mexico, tops the list of problems. Private economists estimate it will be in the neighbourhood of \$45 billion by the year's end and the Government is already nearly \$10 billion in arrears.

According to Radical Party sources, the new government will have a two-pronged strategy: stop-gap measures aimed at resolving the most immediate problems and buying time for the implementation of a longer-term programme.

The new package of measures indicates that the new regime has quickly diagnosed what needs to be done and is making the kind of noises that the West should like.

Government officials have repeatedly said of the foreign debt that the Alfonsín administration will do its best to meet its obligations, if this does not interfere with the development of the domestic economy.

That philosophy was put into practice last week, as amid some confusion Señor Alfonsín's government told foreign creditor banks that it was unable to renegotiate \$8 billion in public sector debt as previously agreed and asked for six months' grace in which to reschedule a total of \$19 billion of debt falling due between 1982 and 1984.

interest payments on the debt. Most bankers agree that with steady world grain prices, continued good harvests, goodwill from foreign governments and a little luck in rescheduling problem loans, Argentina could overcome its debt crisis in a few years.

The task of rebuilding the domestic economy, racked by recession and inflation, will be more difficult. President Alfonsín faces the equally important but contradictory goals of trying to revive Argentina's prostrate industry and implement much-needed social programmes while at the same time having to fight inflation by cutting back public spending.

The Radical Party economist had devised a plan to reduce inflation which was based on the reduction of the public sector deficit, and lower interest rates, but also relied heavily on the cooperation of private business and labour in pricing and wage agreements.

Reducing the budget deficit may prove an equally Herculean task for President Alfonsín. The new treasury officials have reportedly not even been able to determine its exact size, let alone start to trim it.

Despite this daunting prospect the government believes it has found the key to boosting needed social spending without fueling inflation: this is the country's military budget, which is believed to account for 40 per cent of total state spending.

Whether this strategy bears fruit before the inevitable erosion of any government's popularity sets in will depend on the political acumen and economic imagination of the president's advisers.

By restricting imports of luxury goods and boosting traditional exports of grain and cattle products, Señor Alfonsín's economic team is confident it can repeat last year's \$3.5 billion surplus, \$2 billion of which will be diverted to

Financial notebook

Exit Clive Thornton to mixed reviews

The flies on the walls at the Building Societies Association (BSA) say that Mr Clive Thornton received a warm ovation from his colleagues at his last council meeting before leaving the Abbey National to head the Mirror Group.

Gratitude is generally felt by many involved in housing finance who found Mr Thornton's influence stimulating. Even those with a cynical eye to the publicity purpose behind his bold statements saw him as a useful catalyst to other societies.

Sighs of relief, by contrast, may well have been heard, not just from those traditionalists who distrust the whole basis of the new competitive approach amongst societies.

Three main strands can be distinguished from his many public statements and initiatives over the past five years: First, and foremost, his original desire to involve building societies more directly in housing renovation, in inner city revival and in building housing.

Second, his memorable patenting of the Granny Bond name to challenge head on the Government's attack with index-linked investments on the societies' staple retail savings market - a move which became symbolic, if not necessarily the cause, of the rapid expansion in premium savings products by societies over the past three years.

Third, his challenge to the BSA's recommended rate structure. The first two of these themes have long ceased to make news.

Competition for savings on premium products is now an established part of building societies' operations. They account for almost all of their net inflows against one-third in 1980. The growth indeed reflects the natural evolution of market pressures.

These pressures are consistently stronger on demand for mortgage finance, which continues to outstrip supply. Attractive net-of-tax interest costs and the expansion of home-ownership keep up that pressure.

As for getting the "building" role back into building societies, to revive one of Mr Thornton's favourite early quotations, that has moved from the press notice to the drawing-board, from the headline to the bottom line. It is now down to hard graft at street and site level.

Several societies besides the Abbey National have been quietly setting up the necessary systems, vehicles and staff to fulfil this wider housing role. Their scale of operations is still small, when set against the total housing finance market and the press fanfare which preceded it.

Not surprisingly, the media attention in recent months has been focused on Mr Thornton's third main theme - his challenge to the grip of the so-called BSA "cartel". That grip has been loosened. As

from October 21, the association no longer recommends, it "advises". Members are no longer obliged to inform the association 28 days in advance of a change in their rates on short-cut money.

This move provoked the rumour that the Abbey might be the first society to make the full break by cutting unilaterally its share rate. Comment and counter-comment from several of the major societies flew thick and fast across the news pages.

It would have been commercial lunacy, even if other money market rates had turned lower, for a society to cut the price of a mortgage product for which demand was buoyant and price inelastic. And doubly so if that would effectively have meant increasing its price on the savings product, demand for which has become almost electrically sensitive to marginal price movements.

The first leading society which truly breaks the BSA "cartel" is unlikely to cut its mortgage rate in advance of its competitors; rather it will be, in very different circumstances from today, the society which unilaterally raises its savings rate. Then it will be responding, of course, to early signs of a serious mortgage shortage. Plus ça change...

The author is an economist with the National Federation of Building Trades Employers. Jamie Stevenson

New chief at Austin and Pickersgill

British Shipbuilders: Mr K. Douglas, managing director of Austin and Pickersgill, Sunderland, is retiring on January 1.

part-time basis until the end of January. Mr P. C. M. Thorp, who is on secondment to British Shipbuilders from the Department of Trade and

Industry, will become corporation secretary on January 1. He succeeds Mr F. E. Neale, who will become commercial director of Vickers Shipbuilding and Engineering.

Spencer and Sarah are the final winners

A boy aged 13 and a 15-year-old girl are the winners of The Times Classroom Computer Competition, which attracted thousands of entries.

The winners will both receive an Atari 600XL computer for their schools, and personal gift of The Times Atlas of World History.

When we launched The Times Classroom Computer Competition, we had no idea of the extent of the popularity it was likely to achieve among our school-age readers.

Girls are showing the way

Greenbank High School, Southampton, Merseyside: Raymond Blake, Seevie School, Benfleet, Essex; Paul Mellor, Aberdeen Grammar School, Aberdeen, Scotland; Toby Winch, Heathfield High School, Congleton, Cheshire; Kay Maynard, Southmoor School Sunderland, Tyne & Wear; Julia Cummins, Perse School for Girls, Cambridge.

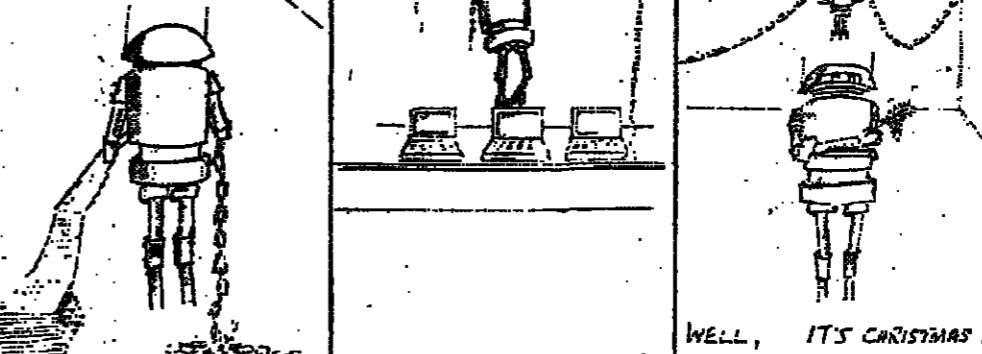
Staff showed an impressive enthusiasm for the subject, and talking to them I found that an increasing number of their pupils are turning from playing games to writing more serious applications programs.

Schools varied widely in their equipment. A selection of micros, ranging from Sinclair ZX81s, Spectrums, PETS, VIC 20s, BBCs and RMLs were in computer rooms.

WALL STREET

Table with columns for company names, stock prices, and market indicators. Includes entries for AMP Inc, Allied Chem, Allied Chem, etc.

AG06



Base Lending Rates table listing various banks and their interest rates.

Losses continue at Volkswagen. Hamburg, (Reuters) - Volkswagenwerk (VW) expects 1983 group turnover to rise to around DM 4 billion (£987m).

Interim profits jump 67% at Halma. Halma, whose interest include anti-terrorist security equipment and environmental control products, has reported first-half profits 67 per cent up on the same period last year.

Video in business. (A businessman's guide) Take British Airways. They're currently having the Sony Interactive Video System fitted at their Heathrow headquarters.

Spencer and Sarah are the final winners. A boy aged 13 and a 15-year-old girl are the winners of The Times Classroom Computer Competition.

National Computer Competition. Early in the New Year, following the success of The Times Classroom Computer Competition, which attracted thousands of entries, Computer Horizons will be launching a national competition open to all.

Spurs gain nearly £1/2m from sponsors

Tottenham Hotspur yesterday announced a £25,000 sponsorship deal with Holsten Distribution Limited until the end of the 1985/86 season.

Let me get on with my job - Pleat

Luton manager David Pleat, yesterday pleaded to be left to get on with his job at Kenilworth Road after the speculation linking him with Arsenal manager.

Treble for Priest in Youth win

The FA Youth XI gave a sparkling performance of skilful football at the Bank of England stadium in London.

Results from overseas leagues

Table listing football results from various overseas leagues including Serie A, Bundesliga, and others.

Honouring Raul

Rio de Janeiro (AP) - Some of the greatest names in Brazilian football began to gather here yesterday to honour the veteran Brazilian goalkeeper.

Palace debt paid

A petition seeking the compulsory winding-up of Crystal Palace Football and Athletic Club was dismissed by a court yesterday.

Whelan out of Liverpool side for Milk Cup encounter

Ronnie Whelan, the Liverpool player who scored the winning goal in last season's Milk Cup final, could miss tonight's fourth round match in the same competition against Birmingham City.

Aberdeen on flight of fancy

Aberdeen are ready tonight to take off on a football flight of fancy. At Pittodrie the side who have already been hailed in a poll conducted by France's leading sports magazine as "the best team in Europe's line up against Hamburg."

Bearzot and Allodi in clash

UEFA's inept decision to let Internazionale off the hook last week, over Apollonio Konijenberg's alleged attempt to bribe the Groningen club's manager, had an interesting echo in Florence.

Shortcomings for spectators at Winter Olympics

Sarajevo (AP) - The waiting song of a muezzin cut through the fog, calling Muslims to evening prayer. Drivers hooted in frustration at anything at the previous 13 Olympics.

Only Kenya's best will do

OLYMPIC GAMES: There will be no joyriders in Kenya's team for the Olympic Games in Los Angeles.

FOR THE RECORD

Table listing sports records for basketball, ice hockey, and other sports.

Going up: Tim Burford, of England, taking the strain in the squat lift competition at the first world junior powerlifting championships at Miami Beach.

EQUESTRIANISM



Robert Smith on Team Sanyo Alabama head for second place (Photograph: Chris Cole)

Tyteca beats ambitious rivals

A fast and stylish round by Fordi Tyteca on T Soulayk gave the Belgian rider a well-earned victory in yesterday afternoon's Norwich 2550 first prize from the hands of Robert Smith on Team Sanyo's Alabama.

Latest European snow reports

Table providing snow reports from various European locations, including depth, conditions, and wind speed.

FOR THE RECORD

Table listing sports records for basketball, ice hockey, and other sports.

BASKETBALL

Kingston dismiss two US players

American players come and go nowhere more so, it seems, than at the Kingston. The first division club, who parted company with two players from the United States last season, have dismissed two more.

Results from overseas leagues

Table listing football results from various overseas leagues including Serie A, Bundesliga, and others.

FOR THE RECORD

Table listing sports records for basketball, ice hockey, and other sports.

SKIING: AUSTRIANS CANNOT SEE THEIR WAY TO A WORLD CUP COMEBACK

A double triumph for brave Swiss

Val Gardena, Italy (Agencies) - Pirmin Zurbriggen and Martin...



Zurbriggen: coped with terrible conditions to win his first World Cup event of the season

not expected such a good showing. He lagged 1.30sec behind the winner...

CRICKET: PAKISTANIS SCORE THIRD TOUR WIN

Transvaal squeeze out a win. Johannesburg (Reuter) - The West Indian XI lost their unbeaten...

Tasmania fight boldly to delay inevitable defeat. Hobart (AP) - A bold third-wicket partnership of 171 between...

GOLF Faldo gets the vote as top player

Nick Faldo has been voted Golfer of the Year in the annual poll of the Association of Golf Writers...

RACING: MORE MONEY FOR THE MIGHTY MAC

Francombe closes title gap with a well-tuned Winter trio

By Michael Seely

John Francombe's spate of winners continued to flow unabated at Leicester yesterday. The reigning champion jockey landed a treble...

Chase continued to be for the Mighty Mac. Michael Dickinson's impressive winner of Ascot's SGB Chase at Ascot last Saturday...

Folkestone

Racing schedule for Folkestone including Aldington Chase, Stanford Hurdle, and various other races.

Folkestone selections

Selections for Folkestone races, listing horses and jockeys.

TENNIS

NORTH MIAMI BEACH (AP) - In the first round of the tournament...

ICE HOCKEY

Captain who sees Hand as a '£1m player'. Overcoming a spate of injuries and suspensions...

IN BRIEF

Club to help minority sportsmen. A multi-sports club with the aim of boosting Britain's so-called 'minority' sports...

Rules are clarified. The Royal and Ancient are to clarify the rules governing amateur status from April 1 next year...

TABLE TENNIS: Carl Preen, who has withdrawn from the English...

BOXING. Now that the Murrayfield injured have mostly recovered, they probably welcome the coming holiday...

FOOTBALL. Kick-off 7.30 unless stated. European Super Cup, second leg...

RUSSIAN LEAGUE. Cup, third round. Bishof & Spitznagel v Metallurg...

RUSSIAN LEAGUE. First division. Spartak Moscow v Dinamo Moscow...

RUSSIAN LEAGUE. Second division. FC Rostov v FC Nizhny Novgorod...

RUSSIAN LEAGUE. Third division. FC Chernomorets v FC Zvezda...

RUSSIAN LEAGUE. Fourth division. FC Volgar v FC Avangard...

RUSSIAN LEAGUE. Fifth division. FC Torpedo v FC Lokomotiv...

RUSSIAN LEAGUE. Sixth division. FC Sibir v FC Amur...

RUSSIAN LEAGUE. Seventh division. FC Khabarovsk v FC Kamchatka...

RUSSIAN LEAGUE. Eighth division. FC Sakhalin v FC Chukotka...

RUSSIAN LEAGUE. Ninth division. FC Kamchatka v FC Sakhalin...

RUSSIAN LEAGUE. Tenth division. FC Chukotka v FC Kamchatka...

RUSSIAN LEAGUE. Eleventh division. FC Kamchatka v FC Chukotka...

RUSSIAN LEAGUE. Twelfth division. FC Chukotka v FC Kamchatka...

RUSSIAN LEAGUE. Thirteenth division. FC Kamchatka v FC Chukotka...

RUSSIAN LEAGUE. Fourteenth division. FC Chukotka v FC Kamchatka...

RUSSIAN LEAGUE. Fifteenth division. FC Kamchatka v FC Chukotka...

RUSSIAN LEAGUE. Sixteenth division. FC Chukotka v FC Kamchatka...

RUSSIAN LEAGUE. Seventeenth division. FC Kamchatka v FC Chukotka...

RUSSIAN LEAGUE. Eighteenth division. FC Chukotka v FC Kamchatka...

RUSSIAN LEAGUE. Nineteenth division. FC Kamchatka v FC Chukotka...

RUSSIAN LEAGUE. Twentieth division. FC Chukotka v FC Kamchatka...

RUSSIAN LEAGUE. Twenty-first division. FC Kamchatka v FC Chukotka...

RUSSIAN LEAGUE. Twenty-second division. FC Chukotka v FC Kamchatka...

RUSSIAN LEAGUE. Twenty-third division. FC Kamchatka v FC Chukotka...

RUSSIAN LEAGUE. Twenty-fourth division. FC Chukotka v FC Kamchatka...

RUSSIAN LEAGUE. Twenty-fifth division. FC Kamchatka v FC Chukotka...

RUSSIAN LEAGUE. Twenty-sixth division. FC Chukotka v FC Kamchatka...

RUSSIAN LEAGUE. Twenty-seventh division. FC Kamchatka v FC Chukotka...

RUSSIAN LEAGUE. Twenty-eighth division. FC Chukotka v FC Kamchatka...

RUSSIAN LEAGUE. Twenty-ninth division. FC Kamchatka v FC Chukotka...

RUSSIAN LEAGUE. Thirtieth division. FC Chukotka v FC Kamchatka...

RUSSIAN LEAGUE. Thirty-first division. FC Kamchatka v FC Chukotka...

RUSSIAN LEAGUE. Thirty-second division. FC Chukotka v FC Kamchatka...

Ludlow

Racing schedule for Ludlow including Burgundy Chase, Rum Punch Hurdle, and various other races.

Ludlow selections

Selections for Ludlow races, listing horses and jockeys.

Kelso

Racing schedule for Kelso including Earlington Hurdle, Claret Hurdle, and various other races.

Kelso selections

Selections for Kelso races, listing horses and jockeys.

Leicester

Racing schedule for Leicester including Christmas Hurdle, Leicester Chase, and various other races.

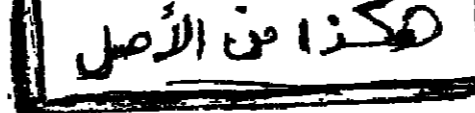
Leicester selections

Selections for Leicester races, listing horses and jockeys.

Vertical advertisements on the right edge of the page, including 'Barbar defeat', 'Changes by', 'Litigat Solicit', and 'Litigat Solicit'.

Today's television and radio programmes

Edited by Peter Dear



BBC 1

6.00 Coffee AM. 6.30 Breakfast Time with Frank Bough and Selina Scott. News from Tom Spinks at 6.50, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00 and 8.30 with headlines on the quarter hours; regional news, weather and traffic at 8.45, 7.15, 7.45 and 8.15; the day's television previewed at 8.55; a review of the morning newspapers at 7.15 and 8.15; horoscopes at 8.25; Diana Moran's star tips, cookery hints from Glyn Christian and Alison Mitchell's money matters, all between 8.30 and 9.00.

tv-am

6.25 Good Morning Britain presented by Anne Diamond and Nick Owen. A review of the morning papers at 6.30, 6.55, 7.20, 7.45, 8.10, 8.30, sport at 8.35 and 7.40; exercises at 6.45; John Stapleton with a topical guest in the Spotlight at 7.05; The search for the Star of Bethlehem continues at 7.35; Christmas shopping with Paul Yates at 7.45; pop video at 7.55; Inside Sheila Stael's house at 8.05; Christmas hamper awards at 8.15; Giles Brandstater's video report at 8.35 and the cooking clinic at 8.50. 9.00 Roland's Winter Wonderland.



Alice Faye and Don Ameche in Hollywood Cavalcade: Channel 4 9.00pm.

CHOICE

Orwell's two-year-old adopted son, Richard, and his nanny, Susan Watson, that are captured brilliantly, as one would expect from the experienced pen of author Alan Plater. Orwell's relationship with the nanny, especially the new neighbour who takes a shine to Avril, are neatly observed, but it is the performance of Plater as Orwell, chain-smoking himself to death as he writes Nineteen Eighty Four, that sets the high standard of this film - a film that other critics on the subject will be pushed to equal.

CHOICE

In Peter Gildewell's ST URSLA'S IN DANGER (BBC2 7.05pm), his sequel to Schoolgirl Chums, which was repeated last night, his heroine, that all-round good egg, Alice Dayne, is now in the sixth form. Set in the 1930s, Gildewell has deftly caught the period and in Christs Long Alison, has the perfect prefect. Tonight's tale has everything the traditional Girls Own stories ever contained - a mysterious gypsy crumpets for tea, the handsome, heroic, cousin on his motorbike, heroic, nice and nasty teachers and an unorthodox American philanthropist, the owner of the estate neighbouring St Ursula's. Ian Kell's direction produces a number of good performances from the girls, but the acting honours go to Barbara Bolton as the strict Miss Prosser and Corran Mantle, the soft Miss Cowley. All good, clean, fun without ever entering into the realms of farce.

CHOICE

Shirley Quirk, baritone, Elroy and Sula: The Soldier's Tale! Best Conducted by Sir Colin Davis. The Royal Phil play the Florida Suite: Dance Rhapsody No 2. A Ceremony of Carols: The Queen's Song. Conducted by the boys of Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford, with John Elgar (bar).

BBC 2

4.00 Film: Mr Lucky (1943) starring Cary Grant, Laraine Day and Charles Bickford. Grant in the uncharacteristic role of a bachelorette. He plays an unscrupulous gambler who plots to defraud an American War Relief society but eventually sees the error of his ways when he falls under the spell of a young socialite. Directed by H. C. Potter. 5.35 News summary with subtitles. 5.40 Rockschool. The final programme of the series designed to help the hopeful rock musician. Cross-section styles are the subjects this week and Debra Cartwright (guitar), Geoff Nicholls (drums) and Henry Thomas (bass). Includes the different varieties. With comment from Neil Rodgers, Carl Palmer, Sarah Lee, Andy Gill. 6.05 Gymnastics: In Search of Excellence. Highlights of the World Championships in Budapest in which 20 of the gymnasts achieved the perfect mark of ten. Stars of the programme are Ecaterina Azabou and Natalia Iourchenko of the Soviet Union who, between them, scored nine perfect marks. 7.05 Play: St Ursula's in Danger, by Peter Gildewell. A follow-up to Mr Gildewell's Schoolgirl Chums, repeated yesterday, about the pupils and staff of a girls' school during the 1930s (see choice).

CHANNEL 4

4.45 Film: The Ballroom! (1923) starring Buster Keaton. Trick photography at its early best with Buster, at the cinema, on a 1,000 foot high waterfall. Directed by Buster Keaton and Eddie Cline. 5.15 Years Ahead magazine programme for the older viewer. There are items on the 5.25 News, 6.45 News, 6.55, 7.55 News, 7.00, 8.00 Today's News, 7.20 Your Letters, 7.45 Thought for the Day, 8.25 Yesterday in Parliament, 8.57 Weather. 9.00 News. 9.05 Tuesday Call: 01-580 4411. Family Trust. 10.00 News; From Our Own Correspondent. 10.30 The World in Action: 'The Gift' by Bernardine Cuzin. Read by Frances Upton. 10.45 Daily Service. 11.00 News; Thirty-Minute Theatre: 'The Lady and the Double-Bass Case' adapted for radio. A short story by Anton Chekhov. With James Bryce, Mark Leslie, and Geoffrey Collins (narrator). 11.30 News; You and Yours. 11.45 My World; 12.55 Weather. 1.00 The World At One News; 1.40 The Archers; 1.55 Shipping Forecast. 2.00 News; The Hour: How super are our supermarkets? asks Jenny Cluff. Also, the fifteenth instalment of The Newsnight series 'The Girl in the Corner', by Howard Schuchman (narrator). 2.30 News; 2.45 The World at One News; 3.00 The Archers; 3.15 Shipping Forecast. 3.30 News; 3.45 The World at One News; 4.00 News; 4.10 The World at One News; 4.20 News; 4.30 News; 4.40 News; 4.50 News; 5.00 News; 5.10 News; 5.20 News; 5.30 News; 5.40 News; 5.50 News; 6.00 News; 6.10 News; 6.20 News; 6.30 News; 6.40 News; 6.50 News; 7.00 News; 7.10 News; 7.20 News; 7.30 News; 7.40 News; 7.50 News; 8.00 News; 8.10 News; 8.20 News; 8.30 News; 8.40 News; 8.50 News; 9.00 News; 9.10 News; 9.20 News; 9.30 News; 9.40 News; 9.50 News; 10.00 News; 10.10 News; 10.20 News; 10.30 News; 10.40 News; 10.50 News; 11.00 News; 11.10 News; 11.20 News; 11.30 News; 11.40 News; 11.50 News; 12.00 News; 12.10 News; 12.20 News; 12.30 News; 12.40 News; 12.50 News; 1.00 News; 1.10 News; 1.20 News; 1.30 News; 1.40 News; 1.50 News; 2.00 News; 2.10 News; 2.20 News; 2.30 News; 2.40 News; 2.50 News; 3.00 News; 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New rules proposed for GPs' deputies

By Nicholas Timmins
Social Services Correspondent

Strict new controls over deputizing services and the use of family doctors can be made of them to cover night and weekend calls were proposed yesterday by Mr Kenneth Clarke, Minister of Health.

The changes come after allegations that some deputizing services are substandard and that some family doctors have been making use of the services to take all their night and weekend work.

Under the new rules, doctors in partnerships of three or more would be expected to cover each other's night calls, without recourse to deputizing services. Single-handed doctors, and partnerships of two, would be allowed to display them for a maximum of three nights a week.

The amount of use could be varied to suit local circumstances and the problems of individual doctors, but regular random checks would be made and excessive use would normally be disciplinary matter, the draft circular on the new rules says.

The proposals were greeted as "a great step forward" by Mr Christopher Hawkins, Conservative MP for High Beak, who has been campaigning for tougher controls, but Mr Michael Lowe, secretary of the British Medical Association's advisory committee on deputizing services, said that they were "astounding".

If the new rules were enforced, he said, deputizing services would simply shut down because they would cease to be viable, and general practice in inner cities would collapse.

Many single-handed general practitioners in inner cities were elderly and could not cope with being on call four nights a week. "It is just not reasonable to expect doctors to be disturbed through the night and expect them to be able to cope with their patients properly in the morning," he said.

Dr John Ball, chairman of the General Medical Services Committee, said that it made "no sense" to force excessive hours on doctors when society was increasingly concerned that important decisions should not be taken by people who were over-tired.



Burnt out case: A PLO fighter watching the cargo ship My Charm blazing in Tripoli harbour. Mr Arafat looks on from a poster.

Arafat ready for evacuation

Continued from page 1

Which raised the little matter of my My Charm. The ship, whose port of registry, Limsol, can still be discerned in the burnt stern paintwork, sailed boldly into Tripoli on Sunday night. Port workers - who are few enough these days but loquacious none the less - suggested that the freighter had docked for the specific purpose of picking up all those heavy guns which Mr Arafat had promised to give to the police.

An emphatic denial came from the PLO leader, although several large trucks can be seen around Tripoli with sacks of rockets all neatly packaged, as if they were about to be transported somewhere.

In human terms, Israel's latest pin-prick harassment of the PLO has done little more than raise fears among the civilian population of Tripoli, and increase the anguish of the older PLO men, who are forced to leave their families in Tripoli, just as many of their colleagues did in Sabra and

Chatila in the summer of last year.

"I said goodbye to my family yesterday," a Palestinian in his late forties said yesterday, as he stood by the harbour wall leaning on a stick. "Then I said goodbye to them today. And now I shall have to do the same again tomorrow."

Other, younger Palestinians sat atop mobile anti-aircraft guns beside the port, waiting for the Israeli gunboats to reappear on the horizon. The sea remained a flat calm, enlivened only by the narrow Moudaouara islands in Tripoli sound.

At dusk, two blue-funnelled tugboats puttered into the wreckage of the harbour to look for empty berths for the Greek ships, which - so it was rumoured - would arrive at dawn.

The PLO were also worried yesterday that the Israelis might decide to stage air strikes on Tripoli, after their jets had bombed the town of Bhamdoun and Aley in the Chouf mountains east of Beirut. The Syrians claimed later

that the Israelis had hit one of the Army positions behind Bhamdoun, and had also struck a hospital used by leftist militias.

An Israeli spokesman at the Israeli liaison office north of Beirut claimed that the planes had bombed positions held by Colonel Abu Moussa's Palestinians. Mr Arafat's rivals within the PLO. No comment was made about this in Tripoli; nor was any sympathy vouchsafed for the Colonel's men.

WASHINGTON: President Reagan has said that the US Marines and other troops of the Multinational Peacekeeping Force in Beirut could be withdrawn next year if Syria gave an assurance that it would pull out its forces from Lebanon and "start the process".

ISRAELI: The White House yesterday blamed the Israelis for imposing the evacuation of the PLO from Tripoli, and called on them to stop blocking the Palestinians' departure.

Israeli pressure, page 5
Spectrum, page 8

Break with tradition at Marks & Spencer

Continued from page 1

with many new lines. Lord Sieff engagingly admits to having made mistakes, but argues that being able to correct some of them gives even more scope for progress.

It was Lord Sieff who built up the company's food side, in 1955, introducing Britons to quality fresh and convenience foods. The food business now accounts for 38 per cent of Marks & Spencer turnover.

When Lord Rayner took over as chief executive earlier this year, Lord Sieff asserted company traditions that the family tradition would continue. Mr Salisse said yesterday: "So it has proved. He is, after all, virtually one of the family. There will be change, inevitably, but it will be gradual."

Lord Rayner, a big jolly man of 57, joined Marks & Spencer in 1953, became a director in 1968 and joint managing

director in 1973. He was made joint vice-chairman last year.

But he caused the biggest stir when in 1979 he became the Prime Minister's adviser on improving Whitehall efficiency. By the end of last year when he finished that job - he was made a life peer in the 1983 New Year's Honours - he had left an indelible mark on many Whitehall departments.

Now, after nine months as chief executive, the Rayner strategy for Marks & Spencer is starting to emerge. He is naturally looking for any sign of inefficiency in the company's empire of 262 stores in Britain and is also looking for continued growth abroad.

The company now has eight stores in the EEC, and exports St Michael goods to 30 countries.

There are nearly 200 stores in Canada and the United States will probably be the next expansion area, although there are no plans for that yet.

Frank Johnson in the Commons Despair hangs over the Chamber

Mr John Biffen, the Leader of the House, was being questioned yesterday by the Labour back benches, Mr Tam Dalyell, about leaked secret Whitehall documents when he suddenly made a disclosure about Mr Dalyell.

"As to secrets, I think the House should note that many years ago I sponsored the hon member to be chairman of the Cambridge University Conservative Association," Mr Biffen observed, in that amiable way of his. Mr Dalyell is that tall, slightly wild-eyed, plummy-voiced Scot of gentle birth and good English education who is interested in all known conspiracies.

On the subject for example, of why we sank the Argentine warship, *General Belgrano*, he has shaken off all vestiges of his Conservative past and is an ordinary, respectable, ex-traitor. The fact that he was once a Conservative has long been well known. It has always been ascribed to youthful high spirits.

His membership of the party has also been seen in the context of the Cambridge of the early 1950s: that despairing era when young idealists believed that, with the seemingly unstoppable rise of R. A. Butler, conservatism offered the only hope of a seat in Parliament.

What is new about the Biffen testimony however, is the revelation of how significant Dalyell was within the Conservative apparatus set up in Cambridge during those morally confused times. It now appears that Mr Dalyell was much more important agent than has hitherto been supposed. He was in the social circle of the young Mr Biffen, and he was sufficiently powerful to be nominated for the Cambridge University Conservative Association chairmanship itself.

No doubt his defence is that, like no other Old Etonians who in later life became socialists or progressives of one kind or another, he became more extreme once he faced up to the responsibilities of a career.

But it all left a lot of questions unanswered. At what point did he leave the party? To what extent is he still sympathetic to the bourgeois ideology with which the party indoctrinated him? There are grounds for an independent inquiry.

But Mr Biffen's revelation had made us all smile. Ad smiles were welcome during this particular question time. For we all knew what was coming. And what was coming was the statement by Mr Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary.

These statements after terrible events tell us little that we do not know already. Mr Brittan described the events at Harrods once again. He paid his respects, and vowed that the terrorists would not profit from their deed. Mr Gerald Kaufman, the chief Opposition spokesman on home affairs, shared those sentiments on behalf of his party. Mr Brittan answered questions from all sides, certain despair hung over the chamber.

This is the despair of people who do not know what to do next. As such it affects a majority on both sides of the chamber, but - on the minorities in the House who believe they do know what to do.

These include those on the Labour left who believe that the answer is to move towards a united Ireland, though in some indefinite way that does not bring on the massacre of the very Catholics whose cause they espouse.

There are also the Unionists, including Mr Enoch Powell; some Tories; Dr Ian Paisley. For them the answer is greater "security". But that too is never wholly defined.

But the majority yesterday betrayed no such certitude. In all the questioning only a few lingered in the memory. Mr John Evans, of the Social Democratic and Labour Party, said that as an Irishman he was ashamed and that, if done, who planted that bomb-wire Irish patriots, "then God save Ireland."

The Conservative, Mr Ivan Lawrence, said the Government should ensure that the details of the crime "reaches the widest possible circulation in the United States." What was missing from Mr Brittan and from Mr James Prior, is a sense that the Government knows how to wage the undaunted fight against terrorism which these ministers promise. Their strategy at the moment seems to be that the British should carry on shopping. The Blitz has been evoked. In the Blitz our leaders sought allies and devised offensives.

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

Royal engagements
The Duke of Edinburgh, President of the National Playing Fields Association, attends a Royal Gala performance of "Aladdin" at the Shaftesbury Theatre, WC2, 7.35.

Princess Anne attends the Christmas celebration in Westminster Cathedral, 6.55.

The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester attend *The Observer* Christmas Carol Concert at the Royal Albert Hall, London, 7.20.

Ron Goodwin Christmas Show, with Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, Guildhall, Portsmouth, 7.30.

Works by Richard Trant, Tom McArthur, Jill Hutchings, Margaret Hens, Pamela Derry and Richard Constable, Blake Gallery, George Lane, Crewkerne, Dorset; Mon to Sat 10 to 4 (ends today).

South Yorkshire Open Art Exhibition, Cooper Gallery, Church Street, Barnsley, Yorkshire, Tues to 5.30, Wed to Sat 10 to 5.30, closed Mon (ends Jan 8).

Words and Images from the Lake District Collage Gallery, University of Strathclyde, 22 Richmond Street, Glasgow; Mon to Fri 10 to 5 (ends Thurs).

Captains of Commerce: new Irish Ceramics; Tom Carr, retrospective; Aspects of Africa; four simultaneous exhibitions at the Ulster Museum, Botanic Gardens, Belfast; Mon to Fri 10 to 5, Sat 1 to 5, Sun 2 to 5, closed 24 to 27 Dec inclusive (ends Dec 31).

TV top ten

National top ten television programmes in the week ending Dec 11

1 Coronation Street (Wed), Granada, 12.30m

2 This is Your Life, Thames, 14.30m

3 The New World, 3.30m

4 The Bob Morrison Show, 5.50m

5 The Sunday Show, 7.50m

6 The Saturday Show, 8.50m

7 The News, 10.00m

8 The Saturday Show, 8.50m

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Anniversaries

Births: John Wilson Croker, politician and essayist, Galway, 1780. Sir Robert Menzies, Prime Minister of Australia 1939-41, 1949-66, Jeppent, Victoria, 1894. Ambrose Fare surgeon, died Paris, 1590.

Roads

Midlands: A10: Traffic signals at Little Port and on Cambridge to Royston road at Hauxton. B4194: Closed between Stourport and Bewdley. A6: Traffic signals at Belper, Derbyshire.

Wales and West: A417: Delays, diversions on old A40, St Oswalds Road, Gloucester. M4: Lane closures for bridge inspection and repairs between junction 21 and junction 22 across Severn Bridge, affecting both carriageways. A303: Temporary lights on Wincanton-Ilminster road at Holton and Sparkford; also Seavington and Ilminster.

North: A66: Single-line traffic and lights on approaches to bridge at Eden Lodge, north-west of Appleby, Cumbria. A75: Lane closures on Farnworth closed near junction with Gladstone Road. A182: Lane restrictions along Hetton Road, Houghton, Tyne and Wear.

Scotland: A84: Intermittent traffic control at Laurence Croft, Stirling. A9: Intermittent traffic control in Causeway Head Road, Stirling. A96: Traffic control 3 miles east of Forres.

Information supplied by AA.

Weather

Pressure will remain low near Britain with troughs of low pressure crossing some districts.

London, East Anglia, E. W. Midlands: Mostly dry, sunny or clear intervals, outbreaks of rain later; winds S to SE light to moderate; max temp 7 to 8C (45 to 46F).

SE, SE, SE, SW England, Channel Islands, S Wales: Sunny intervals, showers, with longer outbreaks of rain developing; winds SW backing SE for a time, moderate to fresh; max temp 10C (50F).

E. NW, central N, NE England, Borders: Mostly dry, sunny or clear intervals; winds mainly S light.

Northern Ireland: Rain at first, bright or clear intervals developing; wind SE at first, becoming variable; light; max temp 7C (45F).

SEA PASSAGES: S North Sea; Straits of Dover; Wind S fresh or strong, sea choppy or rough, English Channel (E); Wind S or SW strong to gale, showers; Sea rough or very rough. St. George's Channel; Wind SE moderate to fresh becoming variable; Sea slight. Irish Sea; Wind SE fresh decreasing moderate, sea slight or moderate.

Sun rises: Sun sets: 8.03am 5.33pm

Moon rises: Moon sets: 4.10pm 8.55am

Full Moon: 2.00am

Lighting-up time

London 4.23 pm to 7.24 am

Bristol 4.33 pm to 7.40 am

Edinburgh 4.20 pm to 8.12 am

Glasgow 4.20 pm to 7.40 am

Manchester 4.11 pm to 7.46 am

York 4.11 pm to 7.46 am

Cardiff 4.11 pm to 7.46 am

Sheffield 4.11 pm to 7.46 am

Liverpool 4.11 pm to 7.46 am

High tides

London Bridge 12.58

Edinburgh 12.58

Bristol 12.58

Glasgow 12.58

Manchester 12.58

York 12.58

Cardiff 12.58

Sheffield 12.58

Liverpool 12.58

Around Britain

Scorborough: Sun, 11.00, 11.00, 11.00

London: Sun, 12.58, 12.58, 12.58

Edinburgh: Sun, 12.58, 12.58, 12.58

Bristol: Sun, 12.58, 12.58, 12.58

Glasgow: Sun, 12.58, 12.58, 12.58

Manchester: Sun, 12.58, 12.58, 12.58

York: Sun, 12.58, 12.58, 12.58

Cardiff: Sun, 12.58, 12.58, 12.58

Sheffield: Sun, 12.58, 12.58, 12.58

CONCISE CROSSWORD PAGE 8

The Times Prize Jumbo Crossword with an additional set of concise clues will appear in the Saturday section this Saturday.

Snow reports

The pound

'Shoppers' counsel

Highest and lowest

Abroad

Moors killer

فكنا من الأصل